



CASTLE COURT SCHOOL

Safeguarding Policy

Castle Court School recognises that the welfare of the child is paramount and takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people in its care.

Promoting welfare involves

'creating opportunities to enable children to have optimum life chances in adulthood'

Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families
(Government guidance 2000).

CASTLE COURT SCHOOL POLICY FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

1. General Introduction

Governors, staff and volunteers at Castle Court School understand the importance of working in partnership with children, their parents/carers and other agencies in order to promote children's welfare. It is also important that all relevant agencies involved in safeguarding children cooperate together for the benefit of the child. *'All agencies take all reasonable measures to ensure that the risks of harm to children's welfare are minimised. Where there are concerns, all agencies take action to address those concerns, working to agreed local policies and procedures in full partnership with other local agencies'* - Joint Chief Inspectors' report 2002. All schools have a designated senior person (DSP) for safeguarding, who liaises with Social Service departments and with members of staff in school. For this procedure to work, it relies on the skills and expertise of every class teacher and adult within school to recognise or report concerns. We have this responsibility under the Children Act 1989 and 2004 and the Education Act 2002. The Governing Body will act in accordance with Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 and 'Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education' (DfES 2006) to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at this school.

2. Designated Senior Person

At Castle Court, our **Matron (Mrs Tanya Chicu) is the DSP** for safeguarding children. If she is not available, then the **Director of Pastoral Care (Mr Lee Edmond)**, will act as the DSP. The DSP and deputy DSP remain the same for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and will take responsibility for safeguarding children and liaising with local statutory children's agencies as appropriate. All staff must have total commitment to safeguarding children, raising children's awareness about themselves through Personal and Social Education, and developing a trusting climate so that children feel able to talk and share their thoughts and feelings.

3. The welfare of the child is paramount

Castle Court has a policy of cooperation between home and school, but with child abuse, or suspicion of child abuse, our first and only responsibility is to the child. This may mean that parents are not initially informed or consulted in some instances. We may not be able to prevent child abuse, but by following safeguarding procedures, we are trying our best to protect all our children and this is our first and main responsibility. All children have the right to be safeguarded from harm or exploitation whatever their:

- race, religion, first language or ethnicity
- gender or sexuality
- age
- health or disability
- political or immigration status

All teachers, through their care of children, try to ensure that children keep safe, remain healthy and are able to say “NO”. Suspected cases are reported, procedures adhered to and subsequent actions are agreed with the appropriate agencies. We also need to care for any children who have been abused and to understand their problems. We acknowledge that child abuse takes many forms and can be instigated by males and/or females, by adults and/or other young people and our child protection procedures apply to all forms of child abuse, regardless of the age of the alleged perpetrator.

4. We will endeavour to safeguard our children by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- involving them in decisions which affect them
- making sure all staff and volunteers are aware of and committed to the safeguarding policy and safeguarding procedures*
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving children and their parents/carers appropriately
- recruiting all staff (teaching and support staff) and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made*
- adopting a code of conduct for all staff and volunteers*
- providing effective management through induction, support and regular training
- ensuring staff and volunteers understand about “whistle blowing”*
- dealing appropriately with allegations/concerns about staff or volunteers, in accordance with Government guidance.
- ensuring that the appropriate child checks and procedures apply to any staff employed by another organisation and working with our pupils according to the Trips and educational visits policy.*
- dealing appropriately with allegations/concerns of serious harm or abuse by any person working or looking after children from EYFS by informing OFSTED as soon as reasonably practicable, but at the latest within 14 days. *
- we will report to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), within one month of leaving the school any person (whether employed, contracted, a volunteer or student) whose services are no longer used because he or she is considered unsuitable to work with children.

*see separate policy/guidance

Child Protection procedures

Safe recruitment of staff

Code of conduct

Whistle Blowing

Trips and educational visits

This policy applies to the Headmaster, all staff (including supply and peripatetic staff), volunteers, governors or anyone working on behalf of Castle Court School and must be read in conjunction with the child protection procedures document.