



Safeguarding Information for Parents / Carers - Feb 2018

What is Safeguarding?

The aim of this newsletter is to communicate key information to parents concerning Safeguarding and how as a school we aim to keep you informed to actively promote the safeguarding and welfare of all our pupils.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

Safeguarding means:

- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children and young people have the best outcomes.

Child protection is part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes child protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child. Safeguarding children and child protection applies to all children up to the age of 18.

Right Help - Right Time - When and why do we make a referral to Child's Advice and Support Services (CASS)

For all parents/carers it is important to be educated in what are the actions that we take prior to making a referral. The information below will help to give a better understanding on our decisions prior to making a safeguarding or family support referral.

The Guidance for Professionals.

The guidance is for everyone who works with children, young people and their families in Birmingham. It sets out four levels of children's needs: Universal, Universal Plus, Additional Needs and Complex/Significant.

The aim is to achieve consistency in understanding and practice, when responding to children, young people and their families who need extra support.

All children access universal services, such as maternity and health visiting, school and youth services. These services are also well placed to recognise and respond when extra support may be necessary. Children will always receive universal services whatever their needs. There are times, however, when extra support is necessary. This may be because the child's needs become increasingly complex or because of parental or family circumstances. Children who have additional or complex needs may require targeted support from a range of services provided by statutory, voluntary and private sector organisations.

We all recognise that, in the vast majority of situations, parents want to help serve the best interests of their children and are best placed to meet their needs. When thinking about how best to support families, an assessment needs to take into account any previous history of support, any vulnerability, risk or protective factors and the context they are living in. This should be considered against the guidance set out in this document.

Some children may do well, even in the most adverse circumstances, while others appear to have little capacity to cope with small amounts of stress. What is important is that individual families are offered services that will respond to their particular needs.

This guide describes potential indicators of concern for children, young people and their families and should be used to enhance collective understanding of risk. The information needs to inform 'professional conversations' between services to improve the quality and consistency of assessments. There will always be circumstances that are not covered in this guide or particular issues that will rely on the professional judgement of frontline workers and of their managers but overall those can still be understood within this framework.

- Universal Needs,
- Universal Plus,
- Additional Needs
- Complex/Significant Needs.

Universal Plus is when a child and their family have needs that require support and interventions above and beyond normal universal services. Additional Needs is when a child and their family have needs that may require an intensive or substantial package of support, but the concerns can be managed without the need for statutory social work intervention. Complex/Significant Needs is when the child and their family have needs that are so significant that they need immediate statutory social work intervention, or highly specialist services to prevent significant harm or serious risks to their health, or welfare.

Guiding principles

- Wherever possible, the needs of children and families will be met by universal services.
- As soon as any professional is aware that a child has any additional needs which may require the involvement of more than one professional, they should talk to that child and their family and offer advice and support.
- Do with - not to - and encourage families to identify their own problems, needs and solutions. In most cases, outcomes for children will only be improved by supporting and assisting parents/ carers to make changes.
- When support is needed, school's duty is to talk to the child on their own and to the family, work out with them and your colleagues what they need, agree a plan and then share responsibility for making the plan work. (See, Plan, Do, Review)
- We will work with the child and family to help them to help themselves. Once improvement is made, services will reduce or end.
- Our aim is always to build resilience in children and families and the capacity to overcome their own difficulties for the remainder of their lives.
- We will be open, honest and transparent in our approach to supporting children and their families.
- We will identify problems as early as possible so that the child and their family receive appropriate support in a timely way to prevent the problem from escalating.
- Never do nothing. If you think a family needs support, get involved and help make a difference.
- Professionals should have conversations with each other to agree how to respond to need as well as develop a plan.





Determining need – questions we will ask before making a decision for a referral.

- Is this family coping?
- Are this child's needs being met?
- Have I ensured that the child has had an opportunity to speak, be heard and listened to?
- What are the relevant factors at the core of the child's needs? Do I have a picture of the family as a whole, their parental capability and environmental factors?
- Have I used this guidance to prompt me to think more clearly and understand the situation?
- Have I considered any previous history of support, service involvement and the current risk and protective factors within the family? Think about what the child's experience really is.
- Am I sure about my understanding of the information? If not, to take advice in the first instance from another schools DSL or agency's safeguarding advisor.
- Have I discussed my analysis of the identified needs with other professionals involved with the child to achieve a more holistic approach?
- Have I discussed my concerns with the child and their family and offered advice and support?
- Have I asked the parents for written consent to my involvement, my assessment and /or referral and to information sharing to help engage services quickly?
- Have I been professionally curious?
- Have I thought about the needs of any siblings?

CHILD PROTECTION / SAFEGUARDING

Who do I need to talk to if I am worried?

Who can help you?

Mr Gaibee Headteacher	Miss Hill Deputy Headteacher	Miss Harrington SENCo	Miss Lacey
			



Call the NSPCC helpline

If you're worried about a child, even if you're unsure, contact our professional counsellors 24/7 for help, advice and support.

Call us or email help@nspcc.org.uk.
0808 800 5000

IF YOU SEE, HEAR, OR KNOW ABOUT IT — REPORT IT!

This could be a child being neglected or any other form of abuse.

Children Protection Officers are in school who will listen and take the matter further.

Should you have a concern regarding a family or a child please email the unique email address which is only checked by lead Child Protection Staff (Mr E Gaibee / Miss Hill / Miss Harrington / Miss Lacey).

featherstoneprimaryschool.co.uk (contact us / raise a concern).

All information will be treated in confidence.

What information is available for parents?

On the school website you will find the following information.

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy For Schools and Education Services
- Information on e-safety / mobile phones
- Link to CEOPS / Report Abuse / ChildLine / Beat Bullying / Pupils Safety
- Leaflets on Forced Marriages and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and organisations that can help