



SAFEGUARDING FOR PARENTS & CARERS

INTRODUCTION

Safeguarding relates to aspects of school life such as pupils' health and safety, meeting the needs of pupils with medical needs, internet/esafety, substance use, self-harm, bullying, radicalisation, and child sexual exploitation.

At Bridgewater High School we are committed to ensuring all pupils remain safe and free from harm. It is our duty to provide an environment within school that will help children to feel secure and respected, encourage them to talk openly and enable them to feel confident they will be listened to.

We recognise our moral and legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our pupils.

BRIDGEWATER PRINCIPLES

- All pupils have a right to be safe, to be listened to, valued and respected.
- All staff have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare all pupils.
- All staff have a responsibility to recognise vulnerability in pupils and act on any concerns in accordance with the safeguarding policy.
- Parents have a right to be informed of any concerns regarding their child.
- Children are best protected when parents & carers and school can work together.
- All staff are given appropriate training and support.
- All staff are subject to rigorous recruitment checks.

**“Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from harm. It includes a wide range of issues relating to pupils’ welfare, health and safety.”
(OFSTED, 2016)**

DEFINITION OF CHILD ABUSE

Child abuse is any action by another person, adult or child, that causes significant harm to a child. It can be physical, sexual, or emotional, but can just as often be about a lack of love, care and attention (neglect). Child abuse can be direct or through other ways of communication, such as online, and can be by someone known to the child or by a stranger. The abuse may be the result of a deliberate act or a failure on the part of a parent/carer to act or provide proper care.

Through their day to day contact with pupils and direct work with families, school staff have a crucial role to play in noticing indicators of possible abuse or neglect. Where there appears to be concerns, the school is required to report these to Social Care immediately.

PEER ON PEER ABUSE

Peer on Peer Abuse refers to abuse suffered by a 'child' from another 'child' ('child' refers to any young person under 18 years old). This can include Domestic Abuse, child sexual exploitation, serious youth violence and harmful sexual behaviour. Any concerns or disclosures that a child has abused another child will be shared with the DSL or Safeguarding Officer. It may be necessary to contact social care and /or the police.

PRINCIPLES IN PRACTICE

In order to ensure children are effectively protected we ensure that:

- We have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) on both Upper and Lower site and a Safeguarding Officer. The DSLs are Mr Malam (Assistant Head Teacher, Upper School) and Mr Morrison (Assistant Headteacher, Lower School). The Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Allen who will attend safeguarding meetings and support pupils and staff with any safeguarding concerns.
- All staff are trained in Safeguarding every three years and receive updates at least annually.
- Safeguarding is a standing agenda item in Senior Leadership Team meetings to discuss safeguarding matters.
- There is a fortnightly Safeguarding meeting to monitor safeguarding concerns.
- The Child Protection policy is accessible on the school website and is renewed annually.

- We only employ staff following safer recruitment procedures, i.e. all staff are DBS checked to ensure suitability to work with children.
- All staff are required to wear ID badges at all times
- All visitors must report to reception upon entering the school premises where they will sign-in to the visitor's book and receive a visitor's badge. Only visitors who have a valid DBS and ID will be allowed unsupervised access to the school.

SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES

1. A safeguarding concern is identified by a member of staff within the school.
2. The person who identifies the safeguarding concern must record it on CPOMS.
3. The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) and the Safeguarding Officer will be notified of this concern.
4. The DSL and Safeguarding Officer will discuss the nature of the concern and decide on the most appropriate action.
5. All further action in relation to the concern will be recorded on CPOMS to ensure a clear plan of action.

If the concern is that the child could be at risk of significant harm the DSL or Safeguarding Officer will contact MASH (Social Care) and a referral will be made.

If the concern is that of a welfare matter, a member of the Pastoral Team will support the pupil in accessing necessary support and raise the parents' awareness to the issue. If the concern is still not addressed, a member of the Pastoral Team will invite the parent in to school to discuss additional support that could be offered e.g. Team Around the Family (TAF), support from services such as CAMHs, Youth Support Service.

PARTNERSHIP

Bridgewater High School will inform parents of any concerns about their children (providing it does not compromise the pupil's safety) and will help support them as necessary.

Parents & Carers are the most important people to keep their children safe. You should always:

- Talk to school if you need help or support
- Read the school policies about safety issues such as the Behaviour Policy, Attendance Policy and Anti-bullying policy.
- Let school know if your child has a medical condition
- Let School know if there is a change in your circumstances such as house move, a new contact number or change of parental responsibility.
- Always let School know if your child is going to be absent and the reasons why.

PREVENTION

Bridgewater High School will take positive action to prevent children suffering abuse and neglect through the development of a strong safeguarding culture that informs children of their rights and encourages them to speak openly about any concerns they may have. We will help your child learn about keeping themselves safe through the curriculum. Lessons can include anti-bullying, e-safety, healthy relationships, drugs and alcohol awareness. As part of these lessons your child will be told about what to do if they are worried about their safety.

STORING INFORMATION

All safeguarding concerns and actions taken will be recorded electronically on CPOMS. Any paperwork from referrals made to MASH and minutes from meetings are kept separately from pupils' academic and other school records in a locked file. Only the Safeguarding Team have access to this.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Safeguarding concerns about possible child abuse or neglect cannot be kept confidential. Where a member of staff becomes aware of signs which cause concern or where a pupil discloses information, he/she will talk to the pupil and listen carefully, explain to the pupil that confidentiality cannot be kept and that the concern must be shared with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Safeguarding Officer.

The DSL and Safeguarding Officer will only disclose information about a pupil to other members of staff on a need-to-know basis. Staff may need to share this information with other professionals in order to safeguard the pupil.

Should you have any queries, questions or concerns regarding the safety or welfare of a pupil please do not hesitate to contact the DSL or Safeguarding Officer via the school office on 01925 263919 (Upper School) or 01925 263814 (Lower School) or contact Warrington MASH directly on 01925 444140.