Safeguarding Policy

Definition of Safeguarding

Safeguarding is defined as ‘working together to safeguard children’. This includes protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of children’s health or development, ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Safeguarding action may be needed for child protection from:

- neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse
- bullying, including online bullying and prejudice-based bullying
- racist, disability and homophobic or transphobic abuse
- gender-based violence/violence against women and girls
- radicalisation and/or extremist behaviour
- child sexual exploitation and trafficking
- the impact of new technologies on sexual behaviour, for example ‘sexting’ and accessing pornography
- teenage relationship abuse
- substance misuse
- issues that may be specific to a local area or population, for example gang activity and youth violence
- domestic violence
- female genital mutilation
- forced marriage
- fabricated or induced illness
- poor parenting, particularly in relation to young children
- other issues that pose a risk to children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding is not just about child protection from the above aspects. It also relates to broader aspects of care, welfare and education, including:

- children’s and learners’ health and safety and well-being, including their mental health
- meeting the needs of children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- the use of reasonable force
- meeting the needs of children and learners with medical conditions
- providing first aid
- educational visits
- intimate care and emotional well-being
- online safety and associated issues
- appropriate arrangements to ensure children’s and learners’ security, taking into account the local context.
Safeguarding in Maple Hayes School is covered by the Child Protection Policy which sets out how children are protected from any deliberate harm, neglect or failure to act. It also includes a range of other safeguarding policies that ensure the safety and welfare of students. These include: Safer Recruitment, Health and Safety, Behaviour, Anti-bullying, Complaints, Curriculum, Online Safety, First Aid, Medical and Medicines, Special Needs and Educational Visits.

The 2016 Safeguarding Statutory Guidance Position
Maple Hayes School has adopted the main statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' September 2016. All organisations who work with children are bound by the overarching statutory inter-agency guidance called 'Working Together to Safeguard Children’ March 2015. Maple Hayes School has also taken Ofsted guidance into consideration too called 'Inspecting Safeguarding in Schools’ August 2016 and the ‘Independent School Standards’ compliance requirements.

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