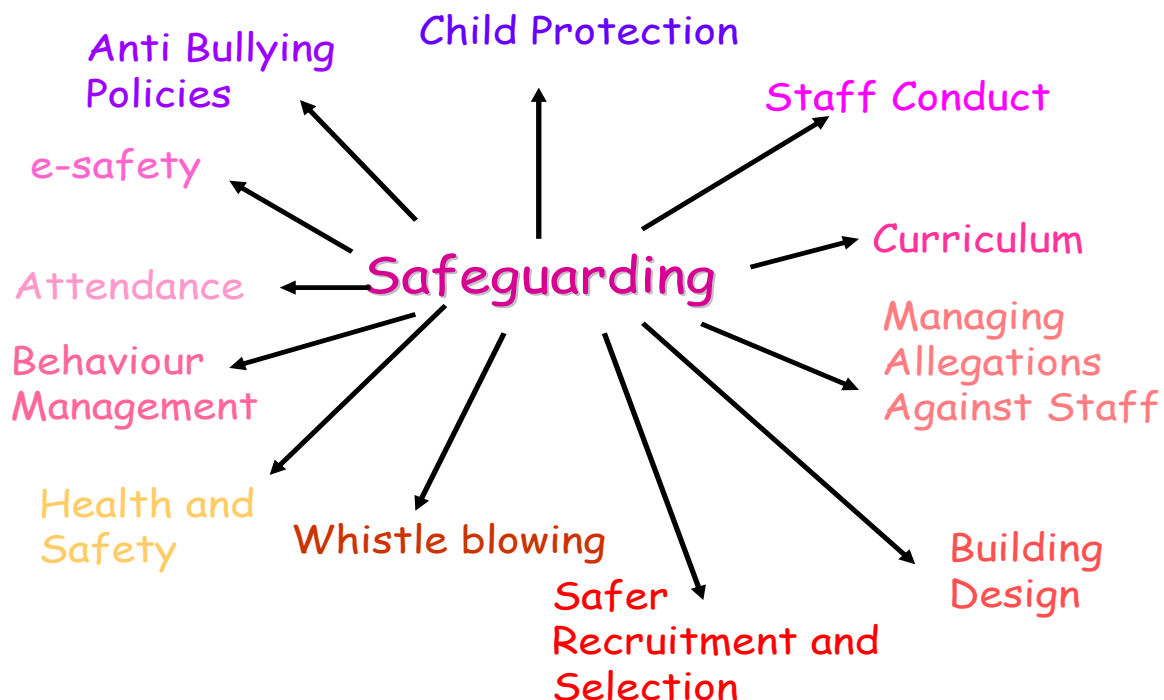


Safeguarding Children in Education - Governor Briefing

1. Safeguarding – What is it?

- 1.1 Safeguarding is protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development and ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.
(Working Together 2010)
- 1.2 Safeguarding in schools incorporates all of the following elements and your school's Safeguarding Policy should include or refer to policies and procedures relating to each of the following issues:



2. The Legal Framework

2.1 The Education Act 2002 s175 requires Local Authorities and Governing Bodies to make arrangements to ensure that the functions of schools are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This means:

- providing a safe environment for children to learn;
- identifying those who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and taking appropriate action to keep children safe at home and at school (*Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education 2007*).

3. Responsibilities of the Governing Body

3.1 The Governing Body has a responsibility to ensure that:

- the school has a Safeguarding Policy which includes child protection procedures that are in accordance with local authority guidance and locally agreed inter-agency procedures and this policy should be made available to parents on request. A model policy which can be adapted for individual schools can be found on the following web page under the section Information for DSPs:
http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/safeguarding_education.html
- the school operates Safer Recruitment procedures and makes sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on all staff, auxiliary staff and volunteers who work with children;
- the school has appropriate procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers that comply with guidance from the local authority and locally agreed inter-agency procedures;
- the school has a Designated Senior Person (DSP) from the school's leadership team who is responsible for dealing with child protection issues, providing advice and support to other staff, liaising with the local authority, and working with other agencies. The DSP need not be a teacher but must have the status and authority within the school management structure to carry out the duties of the post including committing resources to child protection matters, and where appropriate directing other staff. This includes ensuring staff and governors receive appropriate training which may be delivered by them;
- the DSP has undertaken basic level safeguarding training appropriate for the role and multi-agency training that is provided by, or to standards agreed by, the Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board, also appropriate advanced training to keep up to date knowledge and skills;

- the head teacher and all other staff who work with children have received appropriate training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding children effectively, that this is kept up to date by refresher training at three yearly intervals and temporary staff and volunteers are made aware of the school's arrangements for safeguarding children and their responsibilities;
- any deficiencies or weaknesses in regard to child protection arrangements that are brought to its attention are remedied without delay;
- there is a nominated member of the governing body (usually the chair) who takes responsibility for liaising with the local authority and/or other partner agencies in the event of an allegation being made against the head teacher;
- policies and procedures are reviewed annually and information provided to the local authority about them and how the above duties have been discharged.

4. Safeguarding Audit – a useful checklist

- 4.1 Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board has a statutory responsibility to ensure the effectiveness of what each agency does in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. In response to that the Safeguarding Officer for Schools and Learning sends out a Safeguarding Audit to each school at the beginning of the academic year each year for completion and return. The purpose of this is two fold: firstly it enables the creation of a data base of information which can be used to determine future training needs and provides a list of DSPs within the authority; secondly it assists the KSCB and the school in ensuring they are compliant with safeguarding requirements which can be a useful checklist for Ofsted Inspections.
- 4.2 The governing body should ensure that their school has completed the audit or go through it as reassurance to themselves that their school is safeguarding compliant.

5. Training

- Safeguarding training for governors can be accessed in one of two ways. Firstly training is provided by the Kirklees School Governor Service, telephone 01484 225183 . Secondly a training pack has been developed to enable the DSP for the school to deliver the training to their governing body. This can be accessed by contacting the KSCB office on 01484 225161, or by email KSCB.Admin@kirklees.gov.uk

- The level 1 Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect training can be undertaken either by attending the course when it is delivered at school to all school staff (this is done on a three-yearly basis), or by completing the KSCB e-learning course. A link to the e-learning course is on the KSCB website at www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk