



Safeguarding Arrangements at Brierley CE (VC) Primary School

A Parent/Carer Guide



Our Safeguarding Team
at Brierley CE (VC) Primary School

If you have any safeguarding concerns about a child, please do not hesitate to see one of the team below.

Mrs S Benson
Designated Safeguarding Lead
Safeguarding Officer

Mrs S Gough
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs L Matterson
Safeguarding Officer

Mrs P Holroyd
Safeguarding Officer

Father P Cartwright
Governor responsible for Safeguarding

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is **EVERYONE'S** responsibility.

Safeguarding children and child protection at our school 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 to have the best outcomes.

We believe that our Safeguarding and Child Protection work is more effective when it is carried out in partnership with parents and carers and that preventative and supportive strategies should be used whenever possible.

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This means that we have a Child Protection Policy and procedures in place to ensure our approach to safeguarding is consistent and effective.

We work alongside you, keeping you informed about your child's educational progress and wellbeing etc. On occasion, we might have a safeguarding concern and we will follow our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy in order to ensure our concern is handled accurately. Since our first priority is your child's welfare, there may be rare occasions when our concern about your child means that we have to consult other agencies even before we contact you. However, we endeavour to work as closely as possible with families to achieve the best possible outcomes.

All people in the school community have a responsibility to act on any concerns that they have about a child's wellbeing.

On our school website you will find all the relevant documents related to safeguarding including:

Child Protection

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

Anti-bullying

Online safety

What is our Safeguarding Culture at Brierley CE (VC) Primary School?

The culture at our school is one of “It could happen here” which enables all of our staff to remain alert at all times to indicators that suggest a child is suffering, or at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or harm. All reports and concerns are consistently acknowledged and responded to.

We have created a climate where people feel confident enough to report any safeguarding concerns and all staff know who to report their concerns to. The safeguarding team are well trained and act swiftly in order to respond appropriately.

When considering safeguarding issues, particularly regarding those of a sexual nature, we have developed a culture where staff are able to reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. We believe that a victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

What are the signs of abuse and what do we look out for at Brierley CE (VC) Primary School?

School staff are particularly well placed to observe, and should be alert to, outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour or failure to develop.

Abuse - maltreatment of a child - inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm

Sexual Abuse - behaviour changes - precocity- withdrawal - sexually inappropriate behaviour

Emotional Abuse - excessive dependence - inappropriate emotional responses - over reaction to mistakes

Neglect- inadequate clothing-lack of cleanliness - hunger- lack of sleep - lack of supervision

Physical Abuse – aggression - inconsistent explanations- refusal to discuss injuries

Peer on Peer Abuse – humiliation – distress – adverse effects on educational attainment - feeling threatened and coerced

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) – Frequently absent from and doing badly in school - Going missing from home, staying out late and travelling for unexplained reasons - In a relationship or hanging out with someone older than them - Being angry, aggressive or violent - Being isolated or withdrawn.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) - Pain - difficulty urinating - self-harm – depression

Mental Health – indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Serious Violence – increased absence from school – change of friendships or relationships – significant decline in performance – signs of self-harm - significant change in well-being - signs of assault or unexplained injuries - unexplained gifts or new possessions

How do we ensure a safe environment at Brierley CE (VC) Primary School?

In order to create a safe environment at school, we ensure our policies are up to date, there is a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment. It is never passed off as 'banter' and our anti bullying policy is regularly reviewed.

What is meant by sexual violence and sexual harassment between children?

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any sex.

They can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment.

We will aim to support these pupils to access their education and get the correct specialist support, working in partnership with the police and children's services if necessary.

We are clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up.

We will always challenge behaviour or language that seeks to normalise sexual harassment or violence in school.

Sanctions will be applied in accordance with our Behaviour Policy and Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy.

Systems are in place for children to confidently report abuse, knowing their concerns will be treated seriously. For example, each class has a worry doll for children to write their worries in and boxes for children to write down anything they are concerned about regard their own safety.

We allow talking time during lessons and have dedicated focus groups for discussions around safeguarding,

How do we support pupils with SEND at Brierley CE (VC) Primary School?

We are aware of the additional vulnerabilities of some children, including children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and we ensure that all children receive the support they need.

Children who have SEND may be more vulnerable therefore staff are trained to look out for signs of safeguarding concerns and these are addressed in line with our school policies.

Where we have identified our pupils with SEND, our Special Education Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo) and our Parent Support Advisor (PSA) supports them and their families according to their needs.

Provision is made for pupils to communicate their feelings in their own way. They are helped to build a supportive relationship with a trusted person and are consulted on their views and wishes about their life and care in order to meet their needs.

Our SENDCo is Mrs S Gough

Our Parent Support Advisor is Mrs Holroyd

How do we keep your child safe at Brierley CE (VC) Primary School?

Our high expectations for behaviour are:

Positive behaviour is promoted consistently. There are clear boundaries about what is safe and acceptable.

Staff use effective de-escalation techniques.

Leaders monitor and review incidents of poor behaviour.

Staff take action to prevent and tackle discriminatory and derogatory language and behaviour.

Staff recognise the vulnerability of certain children.

Children presenting risk-taking behaviour experience positive support from experience staff

Victims and perpetrators are appropriately supported.

Our curriculum

A well-planned, sequenced curriculum is provided that gives your child age-appropriate knowledge about the risks that they may face and ways to keep themselves safe.

Opportunity is made for your child to share their views and debate topics.

Teaching your child about healthy relationships, online and offline, and support to stay safe online is built into lessons.

Promotion of children's resilience and support of their mental health is a priority in our curriculum.

Our whole school approach includes:

Carefully planned and implemented RSHE curriculum.

Listening to children's voices, including focus groups and having a variety of adults to speak to.

Our Behaviour Policy in place with opportunities to give support to pupils who need it.

On-going training and clear expectations for staff and governors.

Effective engagement with external agencies and partnerships.

Robust arrangements for site security, understood and applied by all staff and children.

How do we ensure our children are safe online at Brierley CE (VC) Primary School?

We have an effective whole school approach to online safety where we protect and educate pupils and staff in their use of technology and establish mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any concerns as appropriate.

The use of mobile and smart technology is taught during our online safety focus within our computing curriculum as it is essential that our children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material.

Our staff are aware of the 4 areas of risk when considering online safety which include:

Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content.

Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users.

Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images.

Commerce: risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams.

Remote learning

Where we have children completing remote learning at home we refer to the DFE's advice to do so safely:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

We ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to limit the children's exposure to any of the above risks.

Use of mobile phones

The use of mobile phones in classrooms is not permitted and parental consent is required when any photographic/video material is used in order to safeguard all our children.

How do we respond to a concern at Brierley CE (VC) Primary School?

Responding to Concerns - Disclosures

If a child makes a disclosure regarding their safeguarding, all our staff are trained in how to manage this and follow the process below:

- React calmly promise CONFIDENTIALITY not SECRECY
- Be aware of non-verbal messages
- Keep responses short, simple, slow and gentle
- Do not stop a child or parent who is talking freely about what has happened
- Observe and listen but only ask open ended questions if needed to clarify but this may be better left to the Designated Safeguarding leader or other Safeguarding Officers
- Write what the child has said as accurately as possible.

The use of **‘TED’ questioning** may be appropriate

Tell me what happened
Explain what you mean
Describe how...

Or **Open ended questions** e.g.

What happened?
Where were you?
When did this happen?
Who was there?
How did it make you feel?

Further safeguarding information

Keeping Children safe in Education 2025

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.childline.org.uk

Your help in supporting our safeguarding work is appreciated by our school and most importantly by our children.