

## **Governor Report. Safeguarding. Autumn Term 2018**

### **Date and scope of termly meeting with the DSL**

We met on October 4th 2018 and suggested as a starting point to use an audit tool to establish the current position with regard to policies and key areas of safeguarding.

Following Karyn's completion of this, a number of items for discussion by the governing body have emerged:

- It would be practical to remove the 2016 'Radicalisation and extremism policy' and incorporate in the more generic safeguarding. This policy was adopted from South Tyneside. There is no requirement for a unique policy
- Awaiting a new NCC Code of Conduct model policy, Several sections of the audit are incomplete while we wait to see if schools HR update with the new requirements
- Consider adding reference to searching and screening (January 18) in the school's behaviour policy. [DfE Guidance](#) was updated in January 2018  
Governors could consider whether we use the entire section:

'Headteachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items are: • knives or weapons • alcohol • illegal drugs • stolen items • tobacco and cigarette papers • fireworks • pornographic images • any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used: • to commit an offence, or • to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil). Confiscation • School staff can seize any prohibited item found as a result of a search. They can also seize any item, they consider harmful or detrimental to school discipline.'

Or whether to use a shorter phrase children and families will find easy to understand

- School could consider sharing the UK Safer [Internet Centre Social Media Checklists](#) with parents via web site or a newsletter. This would be a helpful follow on to the online safety sessions Judith Davis from Community safety delivered in school.
- A children's safeguarding noticeboard is one area for development. School could order a pack of new [Childline posters/wallet cards](#) for pupil board? £2 per set

- Contextual Safeguarding. New in KCSiE 2018. GF joined Contextual Safeguarding Network. The focus of contextual safeguarding is 'Assessments of children take into account all of their social sphere, not only that at school.' This agenda is particularly about protecting children and young people from peer to peer abuse and sexual exploitation and violence outside the home.

### **Updates to KCSiE 2018**

- There is clarity on schools having their own safeguarding policy – one that is relevant to specific issues particular to the school such as societal and locational issues
- Schools are now required to have at least two emergency contacts per child
- Schools should carry out a risk assessment to decide if volunteers require an enhanced DBS check
- In regard to children with SEN and disabilities, there needs to be a greater awareness that behaviour, mood, and injury may correlate to abuse not just disability – therefore extra pastoral support is required
- Schools are required to have policies on behaviour and children missing education and these should be included in inductions
- Children missing school should be viewed as a vital warning sign for a potential safeguarding issue, i.e. child sexual exploitation, forced marriage, etc.

There are also some new sections in the updated *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018* guidance, and these include:

- 'Child criminal exploitation: County lines', which looks at child exploitation in criminal activities such as drug trafficking
- 'Domestic abuse', which looks at the risks to a child's welfare with regard to domestic abuse cases
- An expanded section and definitions of contextual factors surrounding sexual violence and harassment between children
- 'Homelessness', which looks at the risks to a child's welfare with regard to homelessness.

### **News from School**

In addition to the Internet Safety briefing from the Community Safety team, over the past academic year, pupils also learned about emotional and mental wellbeing through a series of events, visitors and learning opportunities, which included a visit from MIND and LGBT awareness with Trinity Youth.

In Summer 2017, older pupils also experienced First Time Free, which was a prevention performance about sexual exploitation that toured high schools across the North East last year. Developed by young people from Northumberland, NDAS, Open Clasp Theatre Company and Brighter Side (Northumberland Adolescent Participation Group). The drama was designed to open discussions around healthy relationships and sexual exploitation among high school students.

Students in Phase 6 have been involved in a course of 4 sessions about positive relationships delivered by Ambre McMinn from NDAS. These were weekly during the Summer Term. She returns to start another course on Thursday 8 November 2018.

**Gill Finch**

19/10/2018