

Annual Safeguarding Report 2024/25

St Mary's, Swanage

Section 175/157 of the Education Act 2002 introduced a duty on Local Authorities and governing bodies of maintained schools to ensure that they safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

At St Mary's we have developed a strong culture of safeguarding. We heavily promote the message that safeguarding is **EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY**. The school has an open culture and ethos where safeguarding is an important part of everyday life.

"The arrangements for safeguarding are effective."

"Pupils feel safe and listened to. They are confident that adults will help them if they have any worries or concerns."

Ofsted 2024

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1. Overview of Safeguarding Practices

The school has a detailed safeguarding policy which has been adapted from the Trust model policy to add local practices.

It includes specific reference to allegations, (child sexual exploitation (CSE), female genital mutilation (FGM), Prevent (preventing radicalisation/extremism), honor based violence, forced marriage, sexting, peer on peer, online safety, whistleblowing and special educational needs (SEN).

The policy has been updated and reviewed within the last twelve months by the governing body and is available on the school website for parents to access.

All staff and volunteers are asked to read the policy and are aware of the procedures for dealing with 'Allegations of Abuse Against Staff and Volunteers'.

There have been no allegations/incidents that fall within the remit of these procedures in the last year. Any such allegations would have been reported to the Designated Officer for the Local Authority (LADO).

2. Recruitment

The school has appropriate recruitment and vetting procedures in place. The following checks are taken up and all references received before an appointment is taken up including:

- Proof of identity
- DBS Check (with Barred List)
- Prohibition Order Checks
- Overseas Checks
- Disqualification Disclosure (where appropriate)
- Section 128 checks

The school records all recruitment and identity checks and keeps these on the employees personnel record.

The school receives confirmation from any and all visiting agencies that staff who engage in regulated activity have been through the same appropriate recruitment checks.

The maintains a Single Central Record and this is checked by the headteacher and the named governor. All governors hold an enhanced DBS check.

All staff received a comprehensive induction. Copies of Keeping Children Safe in Education (part 1), Code of Conduct, Safeguarding Policy (including allegations) and the Whistle Blowing Policy are shared.

The headteacher, deputy headteacher and business manager at the school are all trained in Safer Recruitment. Every appointment panel has at least one member who has completed Safer Recruitment training. This is refreshed every two years.

3. Training

All staff and governors complete updated safeguarding training annually. All staff also complete Prevent training every two years.

All volunteers have an induction that includes a focus on safeguarding. This includes information making them aware who is the designated lead for safeguarding and what that role of the designated lead is.

The Designation Lead and the Deputy Designated Leads complete specific Level 3 training specific to the role. This is refreshed every two years. Regular updates are attended both from the Trust and also the Local Authority.

There are clear recording of training undertaken by staff with links to certificates achieved.

4. Information, Storage and Sharing

Transition of safeguarding records is strong. Meetings happen with any pre school settings and when pupils leave for secondary school. When a new child starts school mid term information around safeguarding is followed up if it has not arrived with other school information.

Information is stored securely on the CPOMs system which keeps all records chronologically. It includes initial concerns, actions taken, outcomes and additional support provided.

5. Suspensions, Permanent Exclusions, Children Missing in Education and Elective Home Education

There have been 0 suspensions this year. There have been no permanent expulsions this academic year. No children are on a part time timetable.

This year, there are two children who have left for Elected Home Education.

6. Child Protection

Staff are aware and vigilant in spotting signs of abuse and report these appropriately. There is opportunity at staff meetings to discuss concerns. Although the headteacher has been working between two schools the DDSLs are experienced and will contact the Dorset Family Support and Advice line.

7. Online safety

The PHSE curriculum ensures that online safety is taught in each year group across the school. The school also partakes in events such as 'Safer Internet Day'. A range of information is sent to parents supporting them keeping their child safe online. Where incidents do happen, specific guidance is given to parents of the class involved in the incident. Clear guidance about age children should access apps is given to parents. Although still infrequent, messaging apps are the main cause of issues within the school. Where issues arise do arise, parents are reminded of the advice from school, advice is given around reporting and blocking and the school is vigilant to ensure that any fallings out do not come into school and act swiftly if they do. Parents in the community are supportive of the school's guidance eg. one parent removing the child's phone although there are exceptions to this. For significant issues the school refers to the Safer Schools Community Team (part of Dorset Police).

Filtering and monitoring has been moved from 'RM SafetyNet' to 'Securely'. 'Securely' complies with KCSIE and PREVENT legislation and provides a safe internet at school. This has improved the filtering including instant alerts where unsuitable sites or unsuitable search terms have been typed. Very few alerts have been received and the few that have, have had plausible explanations.

8. Governance

There is a named governor for safeguarding. The Chair of Governors has the skills to manage formal complaints from parents and allegations against the headteacher. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item and data regarding varying aspects of safeguarding are included in each headteacher's report to governors.

The named governor visits the school regularly and activities include checking the SCR, talking with children, monitoring of behaviour in and out of lessons and staff and ensuring relevant checklist have been completed.

Safeguarding information is shared at each Governing Body Meeting within the Headteacher's Report. This includes numbers and categories of safeguarding related incidents.

9. Site Security

The fencing of the school is high at all points. The school is secure during its operation both from inside and out. Regular health and safety walks take place.

Clear booking procedures take place for visitors and contractors and appropriate checks are made.

10. Next Steps

- Review of categories for CPOMS to show a level of severity to the categories.
- Training matrix developed to distribute the wide variety of courses over time.