



Ashwood Spencer Academy

Team Approach

At Ashwood, every member of staff's primary aim is to ensure that our children are **safe** and **happy**. We have a specific **safeguarding team**, comprising of 4 members of staff with DSL level training. The team consists of:

- Mrs Morgan Belton-Baines—Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Vice Principal (VP)
- Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers—Principal (P) and DSL
- Mrs Sharon Mayer—Family Support Lead (FSL) and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)
- Mrs Kim Smith—Vice Principal (VP) for Inclusion and DDSL

Staff Accountability

We recognize that Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and is child-centered. Because of this, we ensure that all adults in school have received appropriate training - members of staff and long-term volunteers in our school undertake safeguarding training yearly so that key messages and updates are learned consistently and are informed of messages throughout the year in weekly briefings and staff meetings, and visitors who work in school are vigilantly vetted to ensure that their safeguarding knowledge is of a high standard. Adults who work closely with children with increased safeguarding needs complete forms half-termly detailing the children's needs including academic, emotional, physical etc... and build on these to create a working document so that a picture of a child is built up gradually. This allows for commonalities and differences to be noted and provides the professionals who attend meetings for those children to have a comprehensive picture to relay to appropriate services.

Case-by-case level

Between the Safeguarding Team, the cases of the children who have either Early Help or Social Care involvement are worked. This ranges from EHA and TAF Meetings, to Child In Need (CIN), Child Protection (CP) and Looked-After Child (LAC) cases. Mrs Belton-Baines is the Designated Teacher for Looked-After Children.

Having this team approach where key information is shared through appropriate and confidential measures, means that cases are managed with many staff's professional expertise in mind. This also provides quality assurance at all times. Other members of the Safeguarding Team also contribute and attend meetings where necessary.

The Safeguarding Team follow guidance and training, and understand the procedures involved in referring and supporting cases.

Safeguarding 'The Ashwood Approach'

CPOMS

We use CPOMS as our way of recording all information relating to the welfare of our children. Complying with GDPR regulations, here we can upload appropriate documents and record information in a way that is dated and retained. This allows us to use information recorded to respond accordingly.

Information and access is shared with staff on CPOMS on a 'need-to-know' basis. DSL's and SLT (Senior Leadership Team) are alerted to and able to view everything on CPOMS to ensure that they are aware of all matters. It also allows all actions to happen quicker without relying on face-to-face conversations or paper copies.

Child and family level

We place a great deal of emphasis on the children understanding their entitlement to be safe and happy, everywhere they are. Child-friendly posters are displayed in all classes informing children of their rights and who they can go to to discuss how they feel. This is accompanied by calming pastoral offices in school that children can visit when needed. We also have dedicated time to teach children about safeguarding themselves.

Over the academic year, Mrs Mayer (FSL) runs a range of carefully planned groups with parents and children in school. These groups have both academic and pastoral focuses and see bonds being developed between parents and children. She also runs a 'Family Fun' group that allows parents and their younger non-school age children to attend and build bonds with school and home ahead of children attending school.

Relationships with Derby City and wider professionals

The Safeguarding Team receive updates from Derby City Council and attend briefings and network meetings to ensure that key messages are noted.

We have termly 'Team Around the School' meetings with EHA coordinators and School Health. These help us identify and work with families before concerns and situations worsen, acting as early intervention.

Members of the Safeguarding Team also access training that is provided by Derby City. This aims to keep staff up-to-date with recent legislation and apply this in practice. It also allows for information to be disseminated to the whole staff team.

Relationships with wider professionals is a key part of the Safeguarding Team's role. We have frequent communication with wider professionals including Social Workers, Family Workers and Child Practitioners, as well as from agencies such as other education providers and local agencies e.g. housing services, therapy services and emergency services.