



Safeguarding Policy

October 2024

Review Date: September 2025

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Headteacher Date

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Chair of Trustees Date

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1. INTRODUCTION

Safeguarding is 'everyone's responsibility'. This policy sets out Knightsfield School's responsibilities under the Children Act 2004 to ensure children, young people and adults at risk are kept safe from harm.

Terminology:

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children refers to:

- **protecting children from maltreatment**
- **preventing impairment of children's health or development**
- **ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care**

The aim of **safeguarding** is to enable children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

What's the difference between Safeguarding and Child Protection?

Safeguarding is an 'umbrella' term that incorporates child protection. **Child Protection** is the process and activities undertaken to fulfil statutory obligations to protect specific children who have been identified as suffering, or at risk of significant harm. All agencies and individuals should proactively **safeguard and promote** the welfare of children so that the need for action to protect children from harm is reduced.

This policy is available on the school website and the policy folder within the staff drive.

2. PRINCIPLES AND AIMS

Our Principles:

- The welfare of pupils, and their wishes and feelings are afforded consideration when developing and carrying out Knightsfield School activities
- All pupils will have equal rights to support and protection irrespective of their race, age, ability, gender, language, religion, sexual orientation and culture
- All staff and volunteers of Knightsfield School have a professional role to identify and respond to the needs of pupils and report any concerns immediately

We aim:

- To provide all staff (employed, contracted and visiting) with the necessary information/ training to enable them to meet their statutory responsibilities to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of pupils. All staff undertake safeguarding/child protection refresher training each year, and new staff have to undertake level 1 Safeguarding training within one term of commencing employment.
- To provide parents/ carers and children with information about Knightsfield School's arrangements to keep pupils safe.
- To ensure safe and consistent best practice across Knightsfield School
- To demonstrate Knightsfield School's commitment with regard to safeguarding pupils

3. FRAMEWORK

This policy has been devised in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrangements for Managing Allegations of Abuse Against People Who Work With Children or Those Who Are in A Position of Trust, Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Interagency Procedures Manual http://hertsscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_manage_alleg.html
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 Statutory guidance for local authorities, maintained schools, independent schools, academies and free schools, DfE (February 2015) www.gov.uk/government/publications/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education Act 2002 Section 175 – requires local education authorities and the governors of maintained schools and further education (FE) colleges to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Section 157 and the Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 - require proprietors of independent schools (including academies and technology colleges) to have arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are pupils at the school.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guidance for Safer Working Practice, Safer Recruitment Consortium (September 2015)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners, DfE (March 2015)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keeping Children Safe in Education, DfE (2024)• https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66d7301b9084b18b95709f75/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2024.pdf
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexual Offences Act, HM Government (2003)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teachers' Standards These standards set the minimum requirements for teachers' practice and conduct. Teachers, including Headteachers should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1040274/Teachers_Standards_Dec_2021.pdf

- **What to do if you're worried a child is being abused**, DfE (March 2015)
Non statutory advice which helps everyone who works with children to identify abuse and neglect and take appropriate action
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What to do if you re worried a child is being abused.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf)

- **Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children**, DfE (2018)
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942454/Working together to safeguard children inter agency guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942454/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_inter_agency_guidance.pdf)

RELEVANT ASSOCIATED POLICIES

In order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, this policy should also be read in conjunction with other associated policies to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children.

- Anti-Bullying
- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Child Protection
- Complaints procedure
- Health & Safety – Management of Offsite Visits
- Harassment and bullying
- Health and Safety
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs
- Online Safety
- Physical Intervention
- Safer Recruitment
- SEN
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Whistle-blowing

4. SAFEGUARDING THEMES

Anti-Bullying

Knightsfield School recognises the right of our children and young people to develop with confidence in an environment that is safe and free from the emotional and physical distress that can be seen as a result of bullying. It is the responsibility of Knightsfield School to ensure that procedures are in place that will monitor and address anti-bullying issues. There is a more detailed Anti-Bullying Policy available on the school website and a hard copy is available from the School Business Manager.

Attendance

In accordance with Knightsfield School's Attendance Policy, absences are rigorously pursued and recorded. Knightsfield School, in partnership with the appropriate agencies, takes action to pursue and address all unauthorised absences in order to safeguard the welfare of children and young people in its care. We implement the statutory requirements in terms of monitoring and reporting children missing education (CME) and off-rolling and understand how important this practice is in safeguarding children and young people.

Child Protection

There is a detailed Child Protection Policy operating within Knightsfield School. A copy will be provided to parents on request and is available on the school website. It is the Board of Trustees's duty to ensure the policy is reviewed annually and any deficiencies within the policy addressed immediately.

All Child Protection concerns will be managed in accordance with the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures. A copy of these procedures can be found at www.hertssafeguarding.org.uk.

Children's Services telephone number **0300 1234043 (including out of hours)**

Visitors to the school must sign in and are accompanied at all times by a member of staff unless they can show evidence of a current enhanced DBS.

The school ensures all visitors read safeguarding documentation on arrival and understand the best way to communicate with our pupils.

Complaints

Knightsfield School has a Complaints Procedure available to parents, pupils and staff who wish to report concerns. This can be found on the school website.

All reported concerns will be taken seriously and considered within the relevant and appropriate process. Anything that constitutes an allegation against a member of staff or volunteer will be dealt with under the specific procedures for Managing Allegations Against Staff.

Confidentiality

All staff will understand that safeguarding issues warrant a high level of confidentiality, not only out of respect for the pupil and staff involved, but also to ensure that information being released into the public domain does not compromise evidence.

Safeguarding information will be stored and handled in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. At Knightsfield School safeguarding concerns are logged on CPOMS. The DSP will normally obtain consent from the pupil/parent to share sensitive information with outside agencies. Where there is good reason to do so (e.g. to help to protect a child), the DSP may share information without consent and will record the reason for this. Safeguarding records are normally exempt from the disclosure provisions of the Data Protection Act, which means that children and parents do not have an automatic right to see them. Knightsfield School will retain this information on the pupil file and transfer to the next school/archive the information in line with The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005 and The Information and Records Management Society. Knightsfield School will only share information about children with adults who have parental responsibility for a pupil. Please see Hertfordshire's Pupil Safeguarding Records Guidance at http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/welfare/child_protection/policy/local.shtml#pupilsafe for further information.

Curriculum

Pupils are taught to understand and manage risk through our PSHCE education and sex and relationships lessons and through all aspects of school life.

Knightsfield School is committed to ensuring that pupils are aware of behaviour towards them that is not acceptable and how they can keep themselves safe. All pupils know that we have senior members of staff with responsibility for child protection and they are made aware of whom these persons are. We inform pupils of whom they might talk to, both in and out of school, their right to be listened to and heard and what steps can be taken to protect them from harm.

Subjects such as Personal, Social and Health Care Education discuss relevant safeguarding issues with the children. Please see the e-safety section of this policy for further details on this topic.

Online Safety

We have an Online Safety policy which can be found on the school website and staff drive.

Our policy includes how we teach children to stay safe when using the internet in and out of school- including the risks of sharing content and images online and tackling bullying, including cyber bullying. Cyber-bullying by children, via texts and emails, will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures.

Knightsfield School will ensure that appropriate filtering methods are in place to ensure that children are safe from all types of inappropriate and unacceptable materials, including terrorist and extremist material.

The Knightsfield School website has a pupil page that signposts how pupils can get help out of school hours.

Digital images:

The use of digital images in schools is a complex area, Knightsfield School has a clear and sufficiently detailed policy which covers the taking and use of digital images and video of children and takes steps to ensure that it is understood and enforced.

Knightsfield School recognises the importance and usefulness of including the children's use of technology within the classroom, such as an iPad. With this brings lots of opportunities for children across all age ranges to explore and learn in an explorative and creative way. The use of a technology item, such as an iPad is likely to have a camera and children will be using the camera as part of their learning experience. However, the use of iPad's and other tablet equipment can also present risks if children are left to use the equipment in an unsupervised environment. It is therefore understood that the school will ensure that all usage of iPad's within the school will be supervised by an adult at all times.

Staff and children sign ICT Acceptable Use Agreements. For staff this includes a section on the use of digital images and clarification about the position regarding the use of personal mobile phones/cameras for taking pictures. Where volunteers are supporting school staff, they should abide by the same rules as school staff as far as is reasonable.

Health and Safety

We have a Health & Safety Policy that demonstrates the consideration we give to minimising any risk to pupils when on Knightsfield School premises and when undertaking activities out of school under the supervision of our staff. At all times there has to be appropriate staffing levels and when off-site, appropriate and agreed pupil / adult ratios are maintained. The lead adult always assesses visits/trips as to the level of risk and all trips are fully authorised by the Acting-Headteacher before taking place.

Our school has lone working risk assessments in place and procedures for staff where there is a security risk due to the need to work alone; staff at high risk (such as the Site manager and School Business Manager) will receive appropriate training.

A copy of the Health and Safety Policy is available from the School Business Manager.

Inclusion and Diversity

Some pupils may be at increased risk of neglect and/or abuse. Many factors can contribute to an increase in risk, including prejudice and discrimination, isolation, social exclusion, communication issues and reluctance on the part of some adults to accept that abuse can occur.

Our school ethos promotes and accepts the differences between all pupils and adults. In practice this is about ensuring inclusion of individuals and treating them fairly and equally, no matter the diversity of their race, gender, age, disability, religion or sexual orientation.

Promoting equality and diversity in education is essential for both teachers and pupils. The aim is to create a classroom environment where all pupils can thrive together and understand that individual characteristics make people unique and not 'different' in a negative way.

In line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2024), to ensure that all of our pupils receive equal protection, we will also give special consideration to additionally vulnerable groups (as outlined in our Child Protection Policy), for example children with additional disabilities to deafness. Special consideration is also given in the provision of safeguarding information and resources in accessible formats for pupils and adults with communication needs, and all visitors are instructed on the best way to communicate with our pupils.

Managing Allegations Against Staff & Volunteers

Our aim is to provide a safe and supportive environment that secures the well-being and very best outcomes for pupils at Knightsfield School. We do recognise that sometimes the behaviour and actions of adults may lead to an allegation of abuse being made.

Allegations sometimes arise from a differing understanding of the same event, but when they occur they are distressing and difficult for all concerned. We also recognise that many allegations are genuine and there are some adults who deliberately seek to harm or abuse children.

We will take all possible steps to safeguard our pupils and to ensure that the adults in our school are safe to work with children. We will always ensure that the procedures outlined in Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Inter-agency Procedures and Part 4 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', DfE (2023) are adhered to and will seek appropriate advice from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). The Hertfordshire LADO Service can be contacted on **0300 123 4043**.

Partnership with Other Services

Knightsfield School recognises that it is essential to establish positive and effective working relationships with other agencies that are partners of the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board. There is a joint responsibility on all these agencies to share information to ensure the safeguarding of all pupils.

Partnership with Parents

Knightsfield School is committed to working in partnership with parents/carers to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils and to support them to understand our statutory responsibilities in this area.

Knightsfield School shares a purpose with parents to educate, keep pupils safe from harm and have their welfare promoted. We are committed to working with parents positively, openly and honestly. Knightsfield School will share with parents any concerns we may have about their child unless to do so may place a pupil at risk of harm. We encourage parents to discuss any concerns they may have with their child's Form Tutor who can then refer the concern to the relevant person.

Safer Recruitment and Selection

Our recruitment process selects, screens, trains and supervises staff and volunteers so that the appointment of unsuitable people can be deterred and rejected from working with children.

A copy of the School's Safer Recruitment Policy is available from the School Business Manager.

The School has a legal duty to refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child, or if there is reason to believe the member of staff has committed one of a number of listed offences, and who has been removed from working (paid or unpaid) in regulated activity, or would have been removed had they not left. If these circumstances arise in relation to a member of staff at our school, a referral will be made as soon as possible after the resignation or removal of the individual in accordance with advice from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and/or HR.

Knightsfield School also adheres to the guidance issued by The Department for Education in 2015 regarding persons who are disqualified under the Childcare Act 2006.

Safer Working Practice

All adults who come into contact with our pupils have a duty of care to safeguard and promote their welfare. There is a legal duty placed upon us to ensure that all adults who work with or on behalf of our pupils are competent, confident and safe to do so.

The Teachers' Standards (DfE, 2011, updated 2021) are augmented by standards of personal and professional conduct e.g. ethics and behaviour, in and out of school. Teachers are expected to 'uphold public trust in the profession by showing tolerance and respect for the rights of others, not undermining fundamental British values and ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit pupils' vulnerability' .

All staff sign a copy of our school's code of conduct at induction, and are asked to read and sign each time the policy is updated. These are sensible steps that every adult should take in their daily professional conduct with pupils. All staff and volunteers are expected to carry out their work in accordance with this guidance and will be made aware that failure to do so could lead to disciplinary action.

Abuse of Position of Trust:

All school staff are aware that inappropriate behaviour towards pupils is unacceptable and that their conduct towards pupils must be beyond reproach.

In addition, staff should understand that, under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, it is an offence for a person aged 18 or over intentionally to behave in certain sexual ways in relation to a child aged under 18, where the adult is in a position of trust in respect of the child, even if the behaviour is consensual.

Security

The security measures put into place at Knightsfield School have taken into account the need to balance the need to remain a welcoming environment, whilst ensuring the safety of all our pupils and staff.

Access to buildings:

The school will take all reasonable efforts to control access to the buildings and grounds of the school to prevent unauthorised access to pupils and ensure the personal safety of staff. The access control procedures for the buildings are:

- Exterior gates are automated. Playground gates are automatically closed apart from between 8:30- 8:45 a.m. and 3:20 – 4 p.m.

- Access to the MUGA is automatically limited to break and lunchtimes when staff are supervising children.
- The exterior gate in the Primary playground is accessible by controlled entry/exit via the School Office.
- All automated gates are linked to the fire alarm to ensure they automatically open should the alarm sound.
- Monk's Walk School are installing external gates in the Autumn of 2023. The Knightsfield School office will be able to control entry for our visitors when they are closed between 9am and 3pm.

Visitors, contractors and maintenance personnel:

The control of visitors, contractors and maintenance personnel is a fundamental part of our site security to ensure the safeguarding of both people and property.

Where the Board of Trustees transfers control or otherwise allows the use of school premises to external bodies (such as sports clubs) or service providers during or out of school hours, we will ensure that these bodies or providers have appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures, and that there are arrangements in place to co-ordinate with the school on such matters. Such considerations will be made explicit in any contract or service level agreement with the bodies or providers.

Appropriate checks will be undertaken in respect of visitors and volunteers coming into school. Visitors will be expected to sign in and out via switched-on, our entry management system, and to display a visitors badge whilst on school site. Any individual who is not known or identifiable should be challenged for clarification and reassurance.

Knightsfield School will not accept the behaviour of any individual (parent or other) that threatens school security or leads others (child or adult) to feel unsafe. Such behaviour will be treated as a serious concern and may result in a decision to refuse access for that individual to the school site.