

OAKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING - NOTES FOR PARENTS (2015)

The Children Act 2004 is an Act of Parliament in amendment to the Children Act 1989.

The Act aims to promote co-ordination between multiple official bodies to improve the overall well-being of children. As a result there are stringent regulations in place that all organisations working with children must meet. These are detailed in source documents such as: Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013, London Safeguarding Children's Board Procedures 5th Edition, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2014, "Use of reasonable force: Advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies" 2013. It is compulsory for all schools to have in place stringent procedures to ensure the **safeguarding** of all pupils.

Safeguarding means that 'all agencies working with children take all reasonable measures to ensure that the risks of harm to children's welfare are minimised, and when there are concerns about children and young people's welfare, all agencies take all appropriate actions to address those concerns, working to agreed local policies and procedures in full partnership with other local agencies'.

This is so that we are all actively 'protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes'²

The school works to ensure any risk of harm to pupils is minimised. This is achieved through regular staff training and by having in place regularly reviewed and rigorous health and safety procedures. In addition, the school is obliged to monitor and refer suspected cases of abuse to Social Services and the Local Safeguarding Children Board at the Local Authority responsible for the area a referred pupil resides in. If any member of staff suspects that a child is at real and significant risk of harm or is being abused, he or she is obliged to report this to the school's Designated Staff Member for Safeguarding (previously known as 'Child Protection Officer') who in turn is obliged to decide whether to make a referral to the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

A full copy of the school's Safeguarding policy is available on the school website or on request from the school.

The school safeguarding officers are:

Miss Sanah Saleem
Early years manager

Dr. Arshad Jamal
Head teacher

¹ Safeguarding Children: A Joint Chief Inspectors Report (2002)

² Keeping Children Safe in Education, DfE 2014