



## Wolds and Vale Federation Safeguarding Newsletter - January 2023

### Welcome!

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our first Safeguarding Newsletter!

At the Wolds and Vale Federation, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children is everyone's responsibility and our highest priority. Anyone who comes into contact with our children and families has a role to play in keeping them safe.

This newsletter will focus on the positive and effective safeguarding culture we are building in our schools.

Best wishes  
Mrs Mould  
Interim Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead

**"Safeguarding is everyone's  
responsibility"**

### Who to contact if you have a concern about a child

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Designated Safeguarding Team.

**The Designated Safeguarding Team in our Federation are:**

**Mrs Mould – Designated Safeguarding Lead**

**Mrs Walker – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead**

They can be contacted via either school office in person, by phone (Sherburn: 01944 710282/Luttons: 01944 738232) or via email ([admin@woldsandvalefederation.co.uk](mailto:admin@woldsandvalefederation.co.uk))

If your concern is out of school hours, please contact the North Yorkshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Team (MAST) by phone - 01609 780780 or email - [safeguardingunit@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingunit@northyorks.gov.uk)

If you feel a child is in immediate danger of significant harm, call the police on 999

Up-to-date copies of all of our Federation Safeguarding policies will be uploaded onto our website very shortly. More details to follow.

### What is a Designated Safeguarding Lead?

A Designated Safeguarding Lead is a member of the school leadership team who leads on all aspects of safeguarding. This role includes the following:

- Making sure all adults in both schools are aware of how to raise safeguarding concerns
- Ensuring all staff are aware of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect
- Ensuring that all staff, volunteers and adults on placements across the Federation are recruited safely and know about our safeguarding processes
- Making referrals to Children's Social Care
- Monitoring children who are under Child Protection plans
- Making sure that all children attend school regularly and on time
- Supporting children and families to ensure children attend school and are safe at school and at home
- Ensuring children behave well and are safe and happy in school
- Maintaining accurate and secure safeguarding records
- Raising awareness of the schools' safeguarding policies and procedures and ensuring they are implemented effectively and reviewed regularly

**Keeping  
children safe  
is everyone's  
responsibility**



# Our Culture of Safeguarding at the Wolds and Vale Federation



**Safeguarding children** is a phrase most people have heard of, but it can be difficult to explain exactly what it is. The “Working Together to Safeguard Children” guidance from 2018 published by HM Government provides an explanation:

“Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- 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
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

**Safeguarding children - the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm – is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.”**

At The Wolds and Vale Federation, we are building a strong and effective safeguarding culture that is based on current best practice and bound by national guidance. Safeguarding is effective in our schools because everyone knows and understands about our safeguarding culture, systems and practices. Everything we do, and the ways in which we behave, all contribute to a strong culture of safeguarding across both of our schools.

## **We have a clear and shared vision for safeguarding**

Everyone involved in our schools – **all** members of staff (cleaners, office staff, catering staff, teachers, teaching assistants, site staff), volunteers and any adults on placement within the schools (trainee teachers, work experience students) - are expected to share a common purpose to protect children and adults from harm and to create an environment where individuals can thrive. This responsibility sits with our staff, our parents, our IEB, our children and the wider school community. Everyone is expected to be informed about safeguarding. Everyone has a responsibility to be alert, show professional curiosity and ask questions if something doesn’t seem right.

Everyone is expected to behave in a way which contributes to a safe and happy learning environment. This means that all adults and children are expected to treat others with respect and not behave in any way which might cause harm – physically or emotionally – to anyone else. Anyone who needs to raise a concern can feel confident that it will be taken seriously and handled appropriately.

## **Safeguarding is everyone's job and everyone's responsibility**

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) and staff work hard to make sure that our school is a safe and happy environment in which all children can thrive – physically, socially, emotionally and academically and build resilience so that they can be the best that they can be.

The DSLs make sure that all safeguarding policies and procedures are up to date and are communicated clearly so that everyone understands what is expected of them. Our curriculum and our safeguarding curriculum is regularly reviewed to keep pace with the changing risks and the needs of our children. Leaders are not afraid to tackle difficult issues to maintain a high quality, safe learning environment. Please also see the information shared with parents/carers regarding the PSHE/RSE curriculum.

### **Together we develop good knowledge of local risks and help our children learn how to keep themselves safe**

The DSLs continue to develop their own expertise about safeguarding and share their learning across the whole school team as well as with volunteers and adults on placement within our school. Our Safeguarding Leads deal with every concern in a professional and proportionate manner. They make sure that all records are well organised and carefully maintained so that important details are not missed. They are tenacious in following up concerns. They work alongside external agencies such as colleagues in health and Children's Social Services to make sure that partnerships strengthen our safeguarding work. They go above and beyond to ensure that the safeguarding culture is highly effective and that our children are as safe as they can be.

At The Wolds and Vale Federation, the Safeguarding Team work hard to get the best possible help for our children, as early as possible. We try to identify any causes for concern and put help in place before issues can worsen (see our Early Help Offer later on in the newsletter)

### **Our Independent Executive Board (IEB)**

More information about our IEB will be shared with parents and carers soon. However, please be assured that all members of the Board will complete safeguarding training and are informed about our school practice and procedures. They use their knowledge to make sure that all our safeguarding policies and processes are compliant with local and national requirements. They check that our systems of external, self and peer review are working well so that we can be checked and challenged to reach the highest possible standards of education and care. All members of the Board complete safeguarding training to gain a full understanding of what it means to keep our children safe.

The Board also make sure staff open and held to account for our quality of safeguarding. This is evidenced in the safeguarding updates and discussions to be held in the monthly Board meetings.

## **Safeguarding Children**



**Policies, Procedures and Guidance**

## The Wolds and Vale Federation Early Help Offer

**There will be times when you and your family needs support or when you are not sure how to make things better.**

Providing Early Help to our children and their families at The Wolds and Vale Federation means that we are more effective in promoting support as soon as we can.

**Early Help** means that we are providing support as soon as a problem arises, at any point in a child's life and in any aspect of school life. We endeavour to create a Federation-wide ethos that promotes trust between all adults and children so that children know they are able to share concerns or worries with any adult in school and know that they will be listened to and taken seriously. We also encourage parents and carers to come and speak to us if you have a problem. We are happy to speak with you and find solutions. All our Early Help is offered in partnership with parents and carers.

### Examples of Early Help Support Offered at The Wolds and Vale Federation

#### **Zones of Regulation**

In each classroom, in each school, there are Zones of Regulation boards that the children use to "check in" each day. Each zone reflects a range of emotions – feeling happy and settled, excited, uncertain, sad, angry, frustrated. Class staff then complete an individual check in with children if they have placed themselves within a certain zone. This provides the opportunity for the child to share why they are feeling like they do, and staff can support, advise and guide as needed. If needed, the child can also be referred into the Nurture Team for more specialist support.

The Zones are used throughout both schools, from Nursery to Year 6 and they help the children to identify their emotions, the reasons for their emotions and how to deal with them in sharing with others. More information about this will be shared in the Behaviour Policy letter soon.

#### **Early Years**

We appreciate that starting school can be daunting for some of our youngest children – and their parents and carers! We like to get to know our Early Years parents, particularly if you are new to us. Our Nurture Team also work with Early Years children and families and are able to offer a listening ear and advice, if needed, on a range of issues relating to starting school, attendance, behaviour and emotional issues.

#### **Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) and Relationship Education**

Our children, from Early Years to Year 6, have specific times each week to learn about their personal and social development as well as healthy lifestyle choices and safe relationships. They learn about their emotions, how to identify and control them, they learn about safe and healthy relationships and how to be tolerant and inclusive of those around them who are different to them. This curriculum is statutory and age appropriate and our aim is to nurture children to be sociable, inclusive, understanding and emotionally stable individuals. Alongside this, all children know that there all adults in school are trusted adults who can support them if they have difficulties in any of these areas and a Nurture Team for more directed support.

#### **Our Nurture Work**

Our Nurture Team (Mrs Massheder at Luttons and Ms Childs at Sherburn) work alongside our children to provide nurture activities and support our children when they are upset, worried or vulnerable. Our children can be vulnerable for various reasons, for example, bereavement, family breakdown or feelings of anxiety. Our Nurture Team provide a listening ear, guidance and support and can signpost families to the appropriate external support if needed. The aim of our Nurture Team is to help our children achieve positive changes and remain engaged with their families, friends and learning and become safe and happy once again.

## **Nurture**

Nurture is a therapeutic approach to help support children with their emotional and social development. Children may be offered this support individually or in a small group.

Our staff in the Nurture Team are skilled practitioners and are able to work with children of all ages with a range of needs. Research tells us that how we behave is linked to how we feel, and our emotions are linked to how we learn. By teaching children to recognise and deal with these feelings and emotions it can help with their development and learning as well as encouraging positive mental health and well-being. Nurture sessions promote children's emotional and social growth by building resilience, positive relationships between a child and their peers and helps them explore and understand feelings through various activities.



## **Attendance**

At The Wolds and Vale Federation we want to see all our children in school every day and on time. We know that regular and punctual attendance at school means that children will progress and achieve well leading, ultimately, to the best possible life outcomes. We regularly and robustly monitor attendance and will contact families to offer support if we see attendance levels beginning to dip. Every child whose attendance is below 90% on a weekly or half termly level is carefully monitored, and support is offered to those families to ensure that rapid improvement in the attendance rate is seen as soon as possible. Informal meetings and conversations happen as soon as the attendance level dips but these meetings become more formal if little or no improvement is seen. We operate a first day response system and contact parents and carers on the first day that a child is absent from school to ensure that we are aware of the reasons for any absence. All children must have at least 2 contacts held on our system in case school need to contact home.

## **Behaviour Support**

How children behave usually tells us how they are feeling. When a child is distressed, anxious, frustrated, worried, sad or angry, it will be reflected in their behaviour, even if it is extreme. At The Wolds and Vale Federation, we have a policy of relational behaviour management where we aim to understand and unpick children's behaviour with them, whilst also teaching them that some behaviours are unacceptable. We teach children about emotional literacy and resilience and have a fluid behavioural management system which focuses on the "praising the good and noticing the positive". We reward for good behaviour and support when behaviour is not as it might be. Children are supported in their behavioural development by classroom staff as well as the Nurture Team if needed.

Bullying is not tolerated at The Wolds and Vale Federation. If incidents of bullying do occur, we provide support for the children and families concerned. If a child – or parent or carer – has a concern regarding bullying, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact Mrs Mould or Mrs Walker via either school office. We will take all concerns regarding bullying seriously and conduct a thorough investigation.

## **SEND Offer**

Our SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Lead, Ms Childs, works across the Federation. She is guided by the national SEND Code of Practice to ensure our children with additional needs are well supported and can be safe and happy in school and learn well. Ms Childs liaises with class teachers to ensure targeted support enables these children to progress and achieve and supports parents and carers with guidance and advice. Ms Childs can be contacted via either school office.

## External Partners

We work with a range of external partners to ensure our children receive the best possible support and care for a variety of need. We work alongside:

- Health Visitors
- The School Nurse Service
- North Yorkshire Inclusion Team
- CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- Children's Social Services
- Educational Psychologists
- SEND Experts – Specialist Teaching Team, Autism Team, Speech and Language Therapists



## Online Safety

With more children having increased amounts of “screen time” both in and out of school, E Safety is something that we take very seriously across the Federation.

Messages around being safe online are shared regularly in class with the children during specific Computing lessons as well as during more informal conversations around online activities. If school become aware of any specific issues regarding online activities, we will share these with parents and carers via letters sent out on Class DoJo.

Our Computing Lead, Mrs Walker is available to speak with parents and carers if there are any specific concerns or questions regarding online safety.

Please also see the information in the E Safety Newsletter shared just before Christmas.

## Early Help Family Support with North Yorkshire Early Help Service

Sometimes, families and school need the expertise of our partners from the North Yorkshire Early Help Family Support Workers. This extra level of support and sharing of difficulties make problems easier to understand and quicker to solve. These Support Workers have an extensive knowledge about a range of available services that are able to support families with a range of issues.

When one member of a family has a problem, it can usually have an impact on the whole family. Sometimes the whole family need support to overcome these difficulties. After discussions between school and the family, and only with consent, an Early Help Assessment will be carried out. This helps to identify the specific difficulties and find expert support to overcome them. Sometimes, these Early Help Assessments are completed by the school, as school can be the Lead Practitioner. Please contact Mrs Walker for more information if you think you or your family need this support.

**If you have any concerns about your own child or another child, please get in touch with Mrs Mould or Mrs Walker via either school office:  
01944 710282 (Sherburn)/01944 815232 (Luttons)  
[admin@woldsandvalefederation.co.uk](mailto:admin@woldsandvalefederation.co.uk)**

**Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility**

