

The Rutland Learning Trust

Director Monitoring Visit

School: Whissendine CE Primary School

Date: 13/09/16

Governor: Helen Atkinson

Rationale

To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of safeguarding procedures and policies throughout the school. To ensure statutory information is up-to-date and accessible to governors and leadership team.

Monitoring Strategy

Governor to meet with:

- Head of school to discuss safeguarding policies & procedures, to question & challenge the effectiveness of their implementation within the school. To go through the school's safeguarding checklist and safeguarding governor's checklist (both attached).
- To meet with administrative staff to check single central record and discuss the safeguarding policies in place relating to access to the building and use of minibuses.

Key findings

The safeguarding policy is available on the school website and staff are made aware of the school's policy at induction. It is a clear and comprehensive document. The DSL, who is also the Head of school, is scheduled to attend safeguarding training which will include the new 2016 policy changes. We have agreed to discuss any relevant outcomes from this training. All staff receive safeguarding training at induction, annual refresher (delivered by the DSL) and biannual external training. We discussed the roles of volunteers in relation to safeguarding training and the role of the teacher in providing guidance to volunteers when working alongside children.

There are no concerns at the school regarding access and safety of the grounds: the perimeter fence is secure, access to the school is via a locked front entrance with a buzzer and the entrance gates that provide access to the playground and foundation's outside area are locked at the start of the day. Special measures are in place during the current building works to ensure safety for all those entering/leaving the buildings and on site during the day. The recent employment of a new premises officer has been combined with an appraisal and improvements of the buildings and grounds safety and security. This is treated as ongoing and includes a daily site walk of the buildings, boundaries and outside areas.

Safeguarding children during after school clubs was discussed in relation to shared responsibility of the children during this time by parents and school. A system is in place to ensure that children leave safely with the appropriate adult, although it is possible for adults to gain access into the school during these times without signing in - this highlights the importance of the role of the club leader in signing children out after a club and alerting the school if a child does not attend.

Safeguarding issues relating to the current buildings work were discussed. Both the construction company (Mitchell and Hudson) and building companies (MPH) performing the works are experienced in safety matters associated with working on school premises. They ensure that machinery movement on and off the site only occurs out of school hours, that contact between workmen and children is controlled and that all building

staff on site have a current DBS. There are very good communication links between the building company and school and the DSL is confident that the works should proceed without any safeguarding issues.

Health (physical and emotional) is promoted within school in a range of ways including the Christian values and ethos that underpin the school, the NICE learning curriculum, the 6 Rs, the diversity of sporting opportunities (both within and outwith school) and more recently the introduction of yoga classes. This term's theme of "Readiness" includes the importance of drinking, healthy eating and sleeping in order to properly prepare for life's day to day challenges. Further to this, the school plans to introduce mindfulness classes. The school is fortunate to have a teacher with previous counselling experience (Alison Gorman). She has recently trained as an Emotional First Aider, the focus of which is to enable children to express their emotions and to develop helpful coping strategies and so support their mental wellbeing. This role is a really positive addition to the school and is a good example of the lack of complacency and forward thinking demonstrated by the DSL.

E-safety is an ongoing priority. Tanya Comber is the e-safety lead and has recently attended up-to-date training. E-safety (internet, social media, gaming and texting) rules and awareness are promoted within school where they are discussed regularly, additional learning is provided to year 6 pupils as part of their trip to The Warning Zone in Leicester. We discussed ways in which year 6 pupils' understanding of the risks could be challenged in class in order to reinforce their understanding and safe decision making for the future. The school website provides e-safety information and links in the "Parents" section and promotes dialogue between parents and children by suggesting that they are "used as talking points with your child".

All the evidence currently available indicates that children feel happy and secure at school. A recent parental survey supports this claim with >99% agreeing that their child "feels safe and secure in school". Passive governor monitoring is planned for the new year to provide further information.

Administrative procedures

All safeguarding records are kept securely in the central office and are only accessible by the DSL. The single central record is up-to-date. All staff and governors have a current DBS. The computer system is password protected, the password is changed regularly at which time it is checked for 'strength' online.

Summary

The school's safeguarding procedures are well thought through, well documented and thorough. The DSL takes a positive, forward thinking approach to safeguarding. The DSL and staff are aware of their responsibilities in protecting children. Safeguarding policies and procedures are clear and communicated to all staff and staff training exceeds the statutory requirements.

Points for action:

- the inclusion of new elements of September 2016 safeguarding policies.
- to organise an external safeguarding audit and implement a plan for further improvements in the school's safeguarding policies and practice.
- Helen Atkinson to further assess the SCR.
- passive monitoring by safeguarding governor (Helen Atkinson) of children's views on how secure and happy they feel at school.
- include challenges and scenarios into e-safety curriculum for year 6 pupils.
- remind teachers to brief volunteers and to talk about safeguarding pertinent to the specific trip/event they are taking part in.
- to review policy relating to parents as drivers, in particular insurance.
- to check that google alerts are in place for school website.

