

Safeguarding

West Park School fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection.

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school. There are five main elements to our policy:

following safer recruitment practices—checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children;

raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe;

reviewing and following procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of abuse;

supporting pupils who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan;

providing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop;

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with children, school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The school therefore:

establishes and maintains an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to;

ensures children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried;

includes opportunities in the PSHE curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise potential dangers and stay safe.

We follow the guidelines as set out by West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board (WSSCB) <http://sussexchildprotection.procedures.org.uk>

All schools are required to have a policy on Child Protection. West Park School recognises and has regard to its legal duty under sections 157/175 of the Education Act 2002 to work with other agencies in safeguarding children and protecting them from 'significant harm'. It has regard to the Children Act 2004.

We have a designated member of staff for Child Protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role. We also have a nominated Governor responsible for Child Protection.

School staff do not carry out investigations, nor decide whether a child has been abused. This is a matter for the specialist agencies.

West Park School Child Protection Policy is available to parents to read on request.