

Safeguarding Advice for FoRS Volunteers

FoRS is committed to assisting Riccall Primary school in ensuring that all children are safe and understand that the health and safety of all children is of paramount importance. As a PTA, we have a duty of care to adhere to the school's policies and ensure that all volunteers share in the same commitment.

What is safeguarding?

According to Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021), safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical 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

What are the responsibilities as a FoRS volunteer?

- Volunteers must comply with school policies and procedures at all times
- Volunteers must regard themselves as adult role models when undertaking school activities and ensure that their conduct is appropriate to the school setting.
- Volunteers have a right to expect respect and co-operation from any pupils that they may engage with. Any concerns about pupil behaviour should be referred to the relevant member(s) of staff.
- Volunteers must be mindful of confidentiality considerations and should not discuss or pass on information about individual pupils or internal school matters which they may receive or obtain while undertaking voluntary activities.
- Volunteers who undertake activities involving pupils will be required to apply for an enhanced Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) disclosure. The school is obliged to maintain a record of all adults who are subject to safeguarding checks but this will not include details of any convictions. This record is kept on a confidential basis and is subject to inspection by Ofsted.

What do if you have concerns about a child?

As a volunteer, your responsibility isn't to record or sort out any issues or concerns which may arise during your time in school. These concerns may be based on conversations you have had/heard or behaviours you have seen/discussed. However, it is your responsibility to report anything to a member of staff in school for them to make a safeguarding decision.

If a child discloses information to you, you should:

- Listen to the child without displaying shock or disbelief
- Accept what is said and reassure the child. Do not make promises that you may not be able to keep, e.g. 'Everything will be alright now'
- Do not ask leading questions and do not interrogate the child – this is not your responsibility to investigate
- Explain to the child what you have to do next and who you have to talk to. A helpful statement if there is a disclosure is: "Thank you for telling me. I may need to talk to someone else who can help." **Never promise to keep a secret.**
- Contact the school safeguarding lead or a member of the school leadership team as soon as possible

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs): Mr Styles

Deputy DSL: Mrs Wilson

Important documents to be aware of and for further guidance

Riccall Primary School safeguarding policy (on school website)
Riccall Primary School Behaviour policy (on school website)
Riccall Primary School Parent Behaviour policy (on school website)
Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 1