



# Safeguarding

## What does a DSL do?

At St Augustine's the DSL's responsibilities include:

- Responding to any safeguarding concerns.
- Talking to parents about concerns raised, where appropriate.
- Liaising with social care and other agencies.
- Updating school safeguarding records.
- Leading on whole staff training.
- Meeting regularly with the other DSL's to update them.
- Attending Local Authority DSL networks.
- Updating the school safeguarding policy.

## What training is given to staff?

Staff are regularly trained in safeguarding and it is part of our new staff induction. We find out about updates and training through the Local Authority DSL network and online services. Our DSLs attend training every two years and keep refreshed through the DSL network. At the start of each academic year, every staff member receives Safeguarding Basic training. Staff are kept up-to-date through staff meetings where safeguarding concerns relevant to the whole school are discussed (whilst being mindful about confidentiality). We also have a safeguarding display board up in the school.

## How are referrals made?

Child Protection and Safeguarding referrals are made by the DSL's once a disclosure has been made to them by staff, pupils, parents or sometimes visitors. We use the Child Protection Online Monitoring System (CPOMs) for staff to log concerns and these are picked up by the DSL's.

Staff are trained to avoid asking leading questions when speaking to anyone regarding a disclosure and they will support pupils by explaining what will happen.

Posters around school give information about what to do if a child has a concern or needs to make a disclosure.



## Will parents be informed?

If a child makes a disclosure, our practice is to inform parents/carers as long as this will not put a child in danger or we are advised not to speak to parents by social care. Likewise, we will usually inform parents if a referral to social care has been made.

## What if a child or an adult makes a disclosure about a member of staff?

If there is an allegation made against a member of staff then the lead DSL will seek advice from the Calderdale LA Safeguarding Team on the appropriate action to take. Where criminal activity may have taken place, the police will be contacted. All staff are made aware of the school whistleblowing policy which you can find on our school website.

## How does school make sure that staff and visitors are safe to work with children?

We carry out criminal background checks on all staff and visitors who work in school. This information is managed and kept by the School Business Manager. Staff are also asked to disclose any activity that may make them by association ineligible to work with children. Staff are trained to understand that they are responsible for safeguarding and must immediately report any practice they are concerned about. We ask staff to also take precautions such as not using personal mobile phones in school to video or take pictures of pupils.

## What should I do if I have a safeguarding concern?

We ask all parents to help with safeguarding too. If you have a concern about a child, member of staff or any visitors to school then please contact us immediately and ask to speak to one of our school DSLs.

If you have a child protection concern and you feel a child is at risk but cannot reach us or it is out of school hours, then you can also refer to MAST (Multi Agency Screening Team) direct on 01422 393336.

If it is out of hours and you believe a child is in immediate danger then you should contact the police.