

Governors Visit Safeguarding report 01-07-2021

A visit to Church Hill Nursery School by the outgoing Safeguarding Governor Sandra Campbell and incoming Safeguarding Governor Mark Brown, took place on 01-07-2021

The visit comprised a discussion with Helen Curry, Head Teacher and Safeguarding Designated Lead Professional, about recent safeguarding issues and practices (including changes to the premises which had to be made to accommodate the Covid Risk Assessment), an inspection of the Single Central Record, a demonstration of the new Safeguarding Reporting system and a Health and Safety walk around the premises. Finally a separate discussion was had with Sarah Tansley, one of the Deputy DSLs.

Meeting with DSL Helen Curry

The Head Teacher confirmed that all Safeguarding measures were in place, that training of staff was up to date and that new procedures for parents to bring children to school and collect were effective and would probably be continued for the foreseeable future. Parents use a one way system and no longer come inside the school unless by invitation of staff to attend a meeting or suchlike. Staff are at each entrance at beginnings and ends of sessions.

Lengthy absences from school and safety measures that have had to be taken during Covid have had an impact on the children's independence. Class Dojo has been used to support parent's understanding of issues such as children's exploration of body parts. We saw an example of a safeguarding leaflet given to parents by key workers when the initial parent interview is done. There is safeguarding information on the school's website.

Children are educated to tell an adult if they hurt themselves or need to disclose anything.

The local authority online portal has not been required to be updated for over two years (there was 96% compliance last time) but a recent Health and Safety Audit was very successful (as reported at the last Premises Committee meeting).

Recommendations:

- The new Safeguarding Governor has attended online governor training and should now read/familiarise himself with the school's Safeguarding Policy.
- The HT will investigate buddying him up with an experienced Safeguarding Governor from another school.
- Staff will have additional training on protocols for managing social media
- Information re key safeguarding and first aid leads will be displayed on an external noticeboard as parents no longer have access to the interior of the building.

Documentation

The Business Manager, Hasina Rashid, showed governors the Single Central Record.

This appeared up to date apart from some medical checks from Merigold for new staff which need to be followed up as soon as possible.

The Head Teacher demonstrated the new My Concern safeguarding reporting system which marks a move away from paper to electronic recording of safeguarding concerns about the children. This stores confidential information safely and can be passed on to a child's new school. Reports can be pulled up and sent to Early Help and social workers securely.

The main safeguarding leads are on the system and will be using it from the next school year. At the beginning of the next school year all staff will receive training on how to use My Concern. It can be accessed by computer or phone and, once staff have verbally reported a concern to a safeguarding lead, a disclosure or other concern can be recorded by that individual staff member.

Meeting with Deputy DSL

Governors met with Sarah Tansley, one of the Deputy DSLs. She appeared clear about her responsibilities as DSL during wrap around activities and Playscheme. She confirmed that the new systems put in place during the pandemic are safe, that staff have a common understanding of these systems and there is consistency amongst casual playscheme staff who all receive induction.

Recommendation:

-A record should be kept centrally showing when DSLs safeguarding training needs renewing (every two years)

Health and Safety Premises walk

Generally the premises is safe but the following outstanding issues (already reported to the Premises Committee) were noted:

Garden

-In the pond the plants are very overgrown with some sharp leaves. This needs clearing out, in order to do this the metal cover needs to be removed.

-There are some holes in the grassy area which are trip hazards and need to be filled

-The sandpit was not in use and new sand needs to be ordered

-The old playhouse has some broken edges which need repairing

-Drainage issues cause problems periodically - this has been reported to the local authority as reparations could mean extensive work

-A barrier is due to be fitted next to the slope by the side entrance (outside two year olds room)

Indoor area

-The roof is leaking outside the offices in entrance

- The dining area is cramped and there are plans to remove an external wall if feasible to extend the space

-A toilet seat in the children's toilet needs fixing

-Now that parents no longer enter the building information about safeguarding leads and first aiders needs to be displayed outside where it can be seen.