

NTSCP Schools Section 11 2019-2020 - Examples of good practice

Section 11 of the Children Act places a statutory duty on key organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Partnership (NTSCP) undertakes an annual audit of all 82 member schools, including special schools and academies. The audit asks how schools are meeting the requirements of eight national safeguarding standards, or what actions are required to ensure the school can meet the requirements. In 2019/20 a total of 80 schools (98%) completed a Section 11 self-assessment form.

Included in the audit was the option for schools to share examples of good practice. We have summarised these examples to share with schools and these can be found below.

Examples of Good Practice

Information delivery, access, and sharing

We have termly sessions run by the police, for groups of pupils, which covers areas of vulnerability for pupils including the law behind distribution of images of a minor, sexting, E- safety.

Regular staff briefings to keep staff updated and assemblies for children reminding them how to keep safe and who they can talk to in school.

Each half-term we have a staff meeting for safeguarding only and review case studies or scenarios.

Using CPOMS to record and share information, both within the school and where necessary between schools and other agencies.

School organises specific themed weeks with accompanying activities, including Anti-Bullying Week, Personal Development Week and Democracy Week.

School Safeguarding Lead attends all multi agency safeguarding meetings and maintains close links with other agencies.

Training

Staff complete the safeguarding quiz, which includes questions on allegations made against staff and what to do should this occur.

As well as the statutory Child Protection Training all staff receive regular updates and training on relevant current issues (for example County Lines).

During induction, staff are given a 'Safeguarding - Knowing the Basics' booklet alongside their training. This booklet provides step by step guidance on safeguarding good practice.

A safeguarding induction video has been made by the DSL to be shown to all new staff and supply staff as well as visitors to school; accompanying this video is a folder of relevant information.

Annual safeguarding refreshers with all staff, rather than every three years, to ensure staff are trained in contextual issues. In addition, all staff have half-termly safeguarding bitesize sessions on contextual issues such as PREVENT, domestic violence and self-harm.

Safeguarding practices in school

We created a "Cocoon Room" which is a calm and peaceful environment that presents as a safe place. The focus is on both child and adult well-being and it keeps good mental health at the forefront of what we do in school.

Students can report incidents through the bully box referral system if they don't feel confident enough speaking directly to staff about an issue.

Students act as Mental Health ambassadors and an emotional wellbeing tutor and counselling is available to all students.

Additional pupil support outside of immediate pastoral system including psychologists, counselling and mentoring.

Monitoring and tracking

Detailed records are kept and updated on a weekly basis regarding all students with Children's Services referrals and involvement.

Pupils who are vulnerable attend Nurture Groups in school run by the Pastoral and Guidance Leader. Children are assessed on their emotional literacy using the Boxhall profile on entry, mid-year and end of year to measure the effectiveness of the provision.

We hold weekly child protection and safeguarding meetings (attended by DSL/DDSLs). These discussions cover the number of incident reports or concerns raised by staff on a weekly basis and the action taken.

We have an established Business Efficiency Committee who meet regularly to ensure that all changes are appropriately challenged and monitored.

Policies, systems and procedures

Pupils used ICT lessons to develop child friendly policies, with KS3 pupils writing them for the KS2 pupils joining in September.

Created a child friendly peer-on-peer abuse policy which was shared with other schools in the Local Authority.

We have Safer School guidelines for staff indicating safe behaviours and principles which are constantly developing in line with the national and local agenda and are updated annually.