

Thurnham C E Infant School



Vulnerable Children Policy 2021

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- *Behaviour Policy*
- *Equalities Policy*
- *Safeguarding Policy*
- *Homework Policy*
- *Complaints Policy*
- *Intimate care policy (pastoral Care)*
- *Medical Care Policy*
- *Accessibility Action Plan.*
- *Marking and Feedback Policy*
- *SEN information Policy*
- *SEN information Report*

Member of Staff Responsible	Mrs E Pateman
Position	SENCO
Dated	September 2021
Date of next review	September 2022

THURNHAM CE INFANT SCHOOL

VULNERABLE CHILDREN POLICY

This policy is underwritten by our school Christian values of kindness, trust, sharing, respect, love and friendship. These all form an integral part of all we do to support our pupils.

Equal Opportunities

At Thurnham CE Infant School, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of race, gender, disability, faith or religion or socio-economic background. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life.

Purpose

To provide direction to all school staff in the identification and support of vulnerable children in our care.

Introduction

It is the policy of Thurnham C E Infant School to follow the Kent County Council Safeguarding children board

child protection procedures, which are outlined in the Thurnham Infant School Safeguarding booklet. All staff and Governors have a copy of this booklet.

The procedures for dealing with suspected child protection issues are detailed in the policy.

At Thurnham Infant School the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr. Chris James, Head teacher. In his absence Mrs. Elizabeth Pateman, Deputy Head, is the Second Safeguarding Lead alongside Miss Suzanna Chastney, Early Years Leader.

Our mission statement, “At Thurnham we learn to love and love to learn” is an important part of emphasising our Christian character as a Church school, alongside our six Christian values that were decided upon by the children themselves: Kindness, Trust, Sharing, Respect, Love and Friendship, which form the backbone of all that we do for vulnerable groups.

Definition

We consider a vulnerable child to be a child who has been exposed to risk factors that may jeopardise their emotional health, general wellbeing, behaviour or motivation to learn.

These risk factors could include bereavement, separation, bullying, domestic violence, emotional & behavioural difficulties, looked after and accommodated children, children with disabilities, English as an additional language, minority groups, persistent absenteeism and persistent lateness, children underachieving academically and not working to their full potential

**An additional definition of vulnerable children post Covid 19:
Children who have experienced Trauma or been absent from school since March.**

Ethos

Aims

The aims of this policy are to ensure all school staff are aware of the key principle and legislation.

'Every Child Matters' states that it is a schools responsibility 'to protect and promote the wellbeing of all children, and to support their families'.

The document 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Children in Education' September 2014 DEF states that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- Each child will be treated as an individual.
- Each child who can form a view on matters affecting him or her has the right to express those views if she so wishes.
- Each child has the right to protection from all forms of abuse, neglect or exploitation.
- Parents should normally be responsible for the upbringing of their children and should share that responsibility.
- Any intervention by the public authority in the life of a child must be properly justified and will be supported by services from all relevant agencies working in collaboration.

Child abuse is described under one of four categories in the School Safeguarding Policy

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect

All adults who have charge of children have a responsibility to ensure that children are not harmed and are properly cared for. Children with a problem will choose to speak to a person they trust, irrespective of the role and status of that person. It is therefore essential that all staff are familiar with the issue of child protection, take the child's story seriously and avoid either interrogating the child or silencing the child by indications of disbelief.

All staff are aware of the importance of each child's wellbeing and understanding and how this impacts on their learning and happiness.

Procedures

- Close liaison with preschools and preschool visits
- Involvement with pre school Additional Education Needs (AEN) adviser
- Tracking of all pupils four times a year
- Pupil progress meetings (PPM) where Under Achievers or vulnerable children are highlighted and

provision is put in place for that child to meet their set targets

- Teachers' own monitoring and personal notes
- Evaluation of provision mapping

What is in place?

- An inclusive ethos
- Free access to many lunch time and after school clubs
- Robust handover procedures
- Clear links with the junior school
- Opportunities for informal discussions if staff have any concerns
- Book resources (see AEN shelf, parents' books for sharing with children (bereavement and family situation) and library)
- Training opportunities for staff to extend knowledge
- Access to language support if necessary
- Staff trained in alternative means of communication – i.e. sign- along
- Two trained counsellors on the staff

Parents as partners

As a school we have an 'open door policy' for parents of all children to discuss their child's needs. Parents also have the opportunity to discuss their child's needs at three formal occasions throughout the academic year and have other opportunities to meet with the class teacher on request. Parents also have access to class teachers via Seasaw or email.

Safeguarding

People who seek to work with children or vulnerable adults are currently vetted through a system that involves employers applying to the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) for disclosures about new job applicants or volunteers, under arrangements set out in the *Police Act 1997*. CRB disclosures include information from police databases and local police records about the individual's criminal record and may also include other information held by the police about the individual. The school adheres to this and has robust systems in place for both safeguarding in recruitment and Child Protection.

Please refer to Safeguarding board in Meeting room for relevant details and policies