

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS.

Aims of this leaflet

In this leaflet we would like to share with you school policies and practices which ensure that our pupils are taught to live healthy lifestyles, adopt safe practices and ensure they're kept safe from harm.

Statement of Intent

At Best Futures we are committed to providing a friendly, caring and safe environment for all our pupils so that they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in activities in an enjoyable and safe setting and be protected from harm. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect and bullying. School policies are in place to ensure that there is a consistent approach to practices throughout the school and that they are adhered to by staff, the CIC board and volunteers.

Adults have a tremendous impact on young children and, with this in mind, adults at Best Futures:

- promote a happy, caring and safe school
- are good role models for children
- enjoy their work and working with children
- are conscientious and hard-working
- recognise and value strengths in each other and use these to support
- everyone works within the agreed policies of the school
- encourage children to think for themselves, ask questions and find answers
- challenge and support children in their learning.

Support for families.

Designated safeguarding leads, teachers and staff are able to support families. This ensures families are given help at the earliest opportunity, to better support the whole family. If you require any support or information please contact a member of staff.

Safeguarding children

As part of our duty to keep children safe from harm we must identify any child that may be at risk from neglect or physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse. All these forms of harm can affect children's development and stop them from doing well in later life. In order to fulfil this duty all staff are given regular safeguarding training.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are: Kara Bradley (DSL) and Abigail Moore (Deputy DSL). We also have further Deputy Safeguarding Leads, Tracey Allen and Mike Blakey and Dawn Best. Our safeguarding CIC board member is Kath Vincent.

The DSLs attend training every two years to ensure their knowledge and understanding is up-to-date. In the event that the staff have any concerns about a child they will share this with the DSL using a Cause for Concern Form. The DSL will then contact parents to discuss the concerns where appropriate. The DSL will contact the children's services team for the area that the child lives in, for advice from a social worker if they feel the child is a risk of harm and act upon the advice given.

Harm is mainly identified in four ways:

Physical—This is when a child is deliberately hurt or injured

Sexual—This is when a child is influenced or forced to take part in a sexual activity. This can be a physical activity or none physical, e.g. being made to look at an inappropriate image.

Emotional—This is when a child is made to feel frightened, worthless or unloved. It can be by shouting, using threats or making fun of someone. It can also be when children see their parents, or visitors to the home, fighting or using violence

Neglect—This is when a child is not being taken care of by their parents. It can be poor hygiene, poor diet, not keeping appointments for additional support, not coming to school or being left home alone.

Other areas of harm include: peer on peer abuse, online safety, children missing from education, extremism and radicalisation, child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, harmful sexualised behaviour, female genital mutilation (FGM) and so called 'honour based abuse'.

Policies

There are numerous policies in place to safeguard our children which include:

Safeguarding and Child Protection – this is a sensitive area in which all staff receives regular training. School and other services for children and families all work together to support the needs of children.

Attendance – children’s attendance at school is monitored on a daily basis and notable absences or patterns of absence are followed up by our Attendance Officer. The school prides itself on its very good attendance figures.

Behaviour – high standards of behaviour are expected in school. More details of this can be seen in our Behaviour and Anti Bullying policy. Children are often reminded about our school rules and they know that we have them in order for everyone to be happy and keep safe.

Health and safety - everyone at Best Futures knows they have a responsibility to ensure children and adults are able to work in a healthy and safe environment. The school has fully trained first aid members of staff who deal with accidents should they occur.

Curriculum – through the planned curriculum we ensure that the issues of healthy eating, physical exercise and safety are taught. This aspect is enhanced by the visitors to the school and school trips.

Security - We ensure your child is taught in a safe and secure environment by:

- Having one entrance way to the school building for visitors and ensuring all visitors sign in and out, and wear a visitor’s badges
- Having termly fire drills take place
- Regular Health and Safety checks being undertaken
- Risk assessments being carried out by our Site Manager prior to any off site visits.
- Having a secure play area which is walled and gates locked.

Safer recruitment and selection – The CIC board and the school ensure that all staff new to the school and volunteers who have unsupervised contact with children undertakes an enhanced DBS check and full references are acquired before the person takes up post. Further employment checks are also completed for paid staff.

Complaints – should parents have any complaints the school staff will listen to your concerns and will follow up any issues arising. There is a clear procedure in place which can be viewed on request. The Principal Mrs Dawn Best will always be happy to meet with you and help resolve any issues. The school is committed to working closely with parents / carers for the benefit of the children. Remember no problem is too small and can often be prevented from becoming a bigger issue.

If you continue to feel an issue has not been resolved then you could contact the Chair of the CIC board Janette Goodwin janet.goodwincic@bestfutures-school.co.uk.

We all know that children thrive better and are able to reach their full potential when school and families work closely together. All of us here at Best Futures are totally committed to this and we look forward to continuing our close partnership with you in the future.

IF YOU FEEL A CHILD IS IMMEDIATELY AT RISK OF SIGNIFICANT HARM/HAS SUFFERED SIGNIFICANT HARM CALL 999.

Useful numbers and websites:

NSPCC - 08088005000

Best Futures’ Office - 01472 278978

Integrated front door (NELC children’s services): 01472 326292 (option 2).

For further information on safeguarding children please follow the links below:

www.nspcc.org.uk/

www.lincolnshirechildren.net

www.safernel.co.uk/

www.northlincsiscb.co.uk/