



Named governor role – Safeguarding

Area of responsibility:

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as –

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Enabling those children at risk to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

Child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm. Effective child protection is essential as part of wider work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. All agencies and individuals should aim to proactively safeguard and promote the welfare of children so that the need for action to protect children from harm is reduced.

The GB is accountable for ensuring the school has effective policies and procedures in place for safeguarding children, and monitoring the school's compliance with them. Neither the GB nor individual governors have a role in dealing with individual cases or a right to know details of cases, (except when exercising their disciplinary functions in respect of allegations against a staff member).

Roles & responsibilities of the named/link governor:

- Be the link between the governing body and the school in relation to safeguarding
- Help the governing body to ensure it fulfils its statutory duties in relation to child protection, see below
- Help to ensure that the appropriate safeguarding and child protection procedures are in place and understood
- Act as a critical friend - support and challenge the school
- Check that staff and governors are appropriately trained
- Help to ensure that the school works well with relevant agencies and individuals

- Keep your own child protection knowledge up to date

Key tasks/activities:

- ✓ Know your school. Meet the staff lead regularly. Monitor the checklist for governors.
- ✓ Attend training read key DfE document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' etc
- ✓ Monitor the Annual Safeguarding Audit with the DSL for return to the LA and provide regular updates to the GB as appropriate
- ✓ Work with the staff lead to set up an annual programme to monitor and evaluate the provision for children subject to a child protection plan
- ✓ Check that the school has consistent ways of recording concerns, involving agencies, gathering relevant information, keeping staff informed of developments, keeping a user-friendly, up to date and secure filing system

Training/resources required:

e.g training courses, latest version of DfE document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (available on-line), briefing from DSLs.

Governing bodies must ensure that:

- The school has a safeguarding policy and procedures in place in line with local authority guidance
- The school operates safe recruitment procedures, carries out all appropriate checks and maintains an accurate and up to date Single Central Record of DBS checks
- The school has procedures for handling allegations of abuse against staff and volunteers
- A senior member of the leadership team is appointed to lead on safeguarding issues (Designated Safeguarding Lead -DSL)
- All staff receive appropriate training
- Schools immediately address any weaknesses in their child protection arrangements
- A member of the governing body (usually the chair) is designated as the person responsible for liaising with the LA and other agencies in the event of allegations of abuse against the head teacher
- The school's safeguarding policy and child protection procedures are reviewed annually and the Annual Safeguarding Audit is completed and returned to the LA