

A safe school

At CFS, we take seriously the high level of the trust invested in the school by parents and the school ensures that children learn in a safe, caring and enriching environment. The CFS Safeguarding Policy covers many aspects of health, safety and wellbeing. Below is a summary of our key principles:

Safe and secure premises

We are committed to ensuring that the school premises are safe and secure. Our Premises Team, comprising a range of professionals, is headed up by the Principal and link Governor for the Building Team. A named Governor has legal responsibility overall. On the ground, the Principal and site manager ensure that the premises are secure from intruders and that regular assessment of health and safety checks are carried out by consultants and external agencies.

Trustworthy staff

Recruitment is in line with recent legislation and DBS and ISI guidelines; for EYFS staff, our procedures are in line with OFSTED guidance. Currently, all appointed staff, including non-teaching staff in regulated work with children, education support staff and volunteers who are in positions of trust or work regularly at the school or take part in overnight activities, have enhanced DBS checks. One person on every appointment panel has undertaken safer recruitment training. We investigate any accusations against staff and, where necessary, would report to the LADO any adult we consider a danger to children. Any low-level concerns about adults working with children are dealt with in school, following guidance in the latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education. Many parents also have the enhanced checks from their activities in churches or other workplaces. We check others, as appropriate, so that the whole community is transparent in these matters and parents can be called on to contribute practically to school life. All new staff and volunteers receive a safeguarding induction, and existing staff receive regular refresher training and updates on safeguarding policies and procedures within the school. The school has a link police officer who is able to provide training and support for staff, pupils and parents in various matters.

Safeguarding children - procedures

We work together as school staff to identify and deal appropriately with suspected physical, sexual, emotional, moral or spiritual neglect or abuse in line with standards of danger and harm identified by local and national agencies.

The school has a statutory responsibility to share any concerns it might have about a child in need of protection with other agencies and in particular police, health and children's services. Schools are not able to investigate child protection concerns but have a legal duty to refer them. In most instances the school will be able to inform the parents/carers of its need to make a referral. However, the school can in certain circumstances share information without the consent of the family and may be advised by children's services or police that the parent/carer cannot be informed whilst they investigate the matter or make enquires. We understand the anxiety parents/carers understandably feel when they are not told about any concerns from the outset. The school follows legislation that aims to act in the interests of the child.

The school will always seek to work in partnership with parents and other agencies to ensure the best possible outcomes for the child and family.

The school safeguarding team receives training and guidance from School Improvement Liverpool and Liverpool Safeguarding Children's Partnership (LSCP), and safeguarding staff also attend a range of other Local Authority training events. Concerns about a child which reach the agreed harm threshold will be referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in line with local procedures.

The team responsible for Safeguarding Children includes a senior member of staff, a link governor, and two additional trained safeguarding deputies from the staff body:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Rachel Boulton

Deputy safeguarding staff: Steph Sharples and Annmarie O'Connor

Link safeguarding governor: Jenny Oliver

These named members of staff have received up-to-date training for the role, and are supervised by the Principal, Graham Sharples. CFS buys into the support of the Liverpool School Improvement services and completes the annual 175 Safeguarding Audit to ensure that our procedures reflect the latest guidance and good practice .

Safe practices

Risk assessments are undertaken for potentially hazardous school activities, including for the use of various types of equipment and for all school trips. For the latter, staff are expected to do a pre-visit to the venue wherever possible. The residential courses and outdoor pursuits centres used by the school adhere to high standards of health and safety, and their risk assessments are scrutinised by key members of school staff. There are appropriate supervision and staffing levels in school, during lessons, recreation times, extra-curricular activities and educational visits.

Pandemic or terrorist threat evacuation

There is a phone and/or personal contact network to advise all parents swiftly of any need to evacuate or close the school. In addition, the school website splash page is used, plus local radio broadcasts. Staff and pupils are trained in the school's procedure for intruders or security threats within the school grounds, school building and classrooms.

Internet safety

The school internet has a filter to prevent access to unsafe sites and use monitoring software to identify any harmful use of online access and material.. In addition, pupils only have supervised internet access in school. Younger pupils are directed to a safe search engine and a range of approved websites relating to curriculum activities. Training and advice are given to parents and pupils about online safety and social networking. Open communication between parents and school supports pupils who report online bullying or unpleasant messages.

Safety awareness for pupils

From age 4-16, pupils are taught how to keep themselves safe through a spiral of age-appropriate learning. Topics include, among other things, the safe use of apparatus, equipment or chemicals, road safety, personal safety, online safety, the dangers of substance abuse, safe sexual behaviour, how to recognise abuse of trust, consent, how to report bullying or other child-on-child abuse, and more. Children are taught how to identify risky, unsafe or problematic situations, how and when to seek help, how to develop positive and healthy relationships and how to avoid situations where they might be at risk including by being exploited.

Emotional Wellbeing

The emotional wellbeing of pupils is important at CFS. Annmarie O'Connor is the Emotional Wellbeing Lead, and has received training for the role. A team of staff are available to offer mentoring and support

to pupils where needed. We do not provide professional counselling services at school, but our pastoral system is in place to support pupils with social, emotional, behavioural or academic difficulties.

Safeguarding Policies

All school safeguarding-related policies are revised on an annual basis and are checked by the link safeguarding governor before being approved by the full governing body. Most policies are on the school website and all are available to parents on request, including the following:

- Attendance policy
- Anti-Bullying policy
- Behaviour policy
- Child Sexual Exploitation policy
- Confidentiality policy
- Disability objectives and accessibility plan
- Drugs and substance misuse policy
- Equal opportunities policy
- First Aid policy
- Health and Safety policy
- ICT and online-safety policy
- Information sharing - within school
- Information sharing – partnerships with outside agencies
- Intruder or security threat procedure
- Intimate care and toileting procedures
- Looked After Child policy
- Managing Allegations Against Adults policy
- Preventing extremism and radicalisation
- Procedure for entry to the school building in the morning
- Procedure for Managing Allegations Against Adults
- RSE policy
- Safer recruitment a policy
- Safeguarding advice for visitors
- Safeguarding children – Website policy statement
- Staff and volunteer code of conduct
- School Emergency Management Plan
- Whistle-blowing policy