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Headteacher: Anna Jones

Deputy Headteacher: Sally Mohamed

### **Safeguarding at Shamblehurst**

Within school we have five Safeguarding leads. These are Mrs Jones, Mrs Mohamed, Miss Edwards, Mrs Tollefsen and Mrs Curry. The following information is based on Hampshire County Councils procedures, some of our families fall under Southampton City Council. Their procedures vary slightly but the support remains the same.

#### **What sort of concerns do we have in school?**

- Children playing games which are not age appropriate.
- Children watching TV that is not appropriate.
- Children stating that home is not safe e.g. saying that they are alone.
- Children saying that their grown up has hurt them or each other.
- Inappropriate use of Social Media, specifically around children having apps which are age restricted e.g. WhatsApp/TikTok.
- Inappropriate use of mobile phones or the internet.
- Persistently absent or late for school.
- Inability to contact parents.
- Mental health of child or parent.
- Anti-social behaviour either witnessed or reported to us from children in our school or their wider families.
- Third party referrals – these can be from neighbours/members of the community etc. and are always treated confidentially.
- An escalation or change in a child's behaviour in school or at home.

If a child discloses anything that concerns us or mentions any of the above, we will either phone parents/carers or we may refer directly to children's services. **The decision about whether to refer directly to Children's Services or whether to phone parents/carers lies with in the school. This is never one person's decision.** DSL's will carry out a professional conversation where a decision will be made regarding the next steps.

As a school, we may notify parents of the decision to contact Social Services but we do not always have a conversation with parents. Again, this decision is made at school level and is always discussed professionally. There are several reasons why a referral is not shared with parents and this always comes from a place of ensuring the children or family are not put at further harm.

Once a referral has been made, the family may have contact from Children's Services. We then receive notification as to whether any support has been offered and what the support is.

#### **Level 3 - Targeted Early Help**

The MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Team) team may make contact with you to assess the situation. A child and Family Assessment is often completed. This can take for up to 45 days. This will determine what, if any, support is put in place. **Level 3** support may be suggested at this point and the case could be heard at the Early



Help Hub (EHH). In some cases, a Family Support Worker may be allocated. Sometimes a TAF (Team Around the Family) meeting will be arranged. Mrs Curry will attend this from school and share our thoughts on the situation.

#### **Level 4 - Children's Social Care - CIN plan (Child In Need Plan)**

In some cases, families will be placed on a CIN plan. This means that professionals have concerns about the children or family and feel that more targeted support is required. If your family are placed on a CIN plan, they will have a named social worker who will visit at home and in school. There will be additional support for you and your family and there may be a IFSW (Intensive Family Support Worker) assigned to support you in the home. A CIN plan is reviewed every three months. At these meeting professionals from school, health, the police and Children's Services will sit down with you and discuss what is happening within your family.

#### **Level 4 - Children's Social Care - CP plan (Child Protection Plan)**

If your child is made the subject of a child protection plan, it means that **the network of agencies considers your child to be at risk of significant harm in one or more of the following four categories: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse or neglect**. At this point, there is more support given by a Social Worker and more targeted support offered to you as a family. The child is typically seen every 10 working days by their Social Worker, this could be at home or in school. We will facilitate this meeting but will not be present unless requested. After your child is placed on a CP plan, there is an initial meeting 3 months later and then professionals meet every 6 months to assess the plan. Other meetings will be held in between. These are called Core Group meetings.

Within school, Mrs Curry attends all level 3 meetings. Mrs Mohamed attends all CIN and CP meetings.

**Updated - January 2023**

