



DURANTS SCHOOL – POLICY DOCUMENT

Safeguarding Children

October 2021

Reviewed & updated: October 2021 (Rachel Carli)

Next review date: October 2022

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DURANTS SCHOOL – Safeguarding Children Policy

**Health and Safety and Risk Assessment
Main Contacts**

Durants School

Head teacher; Address; Tel:	Rachel Carli Durants School, High Street, Southgate N14 6BN 020 804 1980
Designated child protection person Name: Address: Tel:	Rachel Carli Durants School, High Street, Southgate N14 6BN 020 804 1980
2nd & 3rd Designated child protection person Name: Address: Tel:	Daniela Barzanti Durants School, High Street, Southgate N14 6BN 020 804 1980
3rd Designated child protection person Name: Address: Tel:	Jackie Burke Durants School, High Street, Southgate N1 6BN 020 804 1980
4th Designated child protection person Name: Address: Tel:	Anita Bancercz Durants school 4 Pitfield Way, Enfield EN3 5BY 02088041980
5th Designated child protection person Name: Address: Tel:	Ann O’Hagan Durants school 4 Pitfield Way, Enfield EN3 5BY 02088041980
Named governor for protection: Name: Address: Tel:	Sylvia Hart Durants School, High Street, Southgate N14 6BN 020 804 1980

London Borough of Enfield

Child Protection team: Address: Tel:	Intake and Assessment Team Charles Babbage House, 1 Autumn Grove, Carterhatch Lane, Enfield, EN1 4TU 020 8379 2507
Education Welfare Manager: Address:	Ellin Joseph Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, EN1 3XQ

Tel:	020 8 379 3336
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Introduction

The Government has defined the term ‘safeguarding pupils’ as *‘The process of protecting pupils from abuse or neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they are growing up in circumstances consistent with, the provision of safe and effective care that enables pupils to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.’* The Governors and staff of Durants School fully recognise the contribution it makes to safeguarding pupils. We recognise that all staff, including volunteers, have a full and active part to play in protecting our pupils from harm and that SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONES RESPONNSIBILITY.

All staff and Governors believe that our school should provide a caring positive, safe and stimulating environment which promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child.

Context

Pupils with autism have difficulty understanding their own and others behaviour. They may also behave in ways that are sexually explicit or provocative and can therefore be more vulnerable to inappropriate approaches. Consequently the school’s PSHE programmes focus on relationships, age appropriate behaviours in different settings, self care and sex education.

In addition, adults should be aware that some behaviours, generally accepted by professionals to be signs of emotional disturbance, e.g. isolation, rocking and self harm are common features in pupils with autism and may therefore not be related to child abuse. Some pupils with autism can also find it difficult to understand the difference between fact and fiction and therefore may not always give accurate information. Thus our knowledge and understanding of each child is crucial when considering safeguarding issues.

Aims

The aims of this policy are:

1. To support the child’s development in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence.
2. To raise the awareness of both teaching and non-teaching staff of the need to safeguard pupils and of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse.
3. To provide a systematic means of monitoring pupils known or thought to be at risk of harm.
4. To emphasise the need for good levels of communication between all members of staff.
5. To develop a structured procedure within the school which will be followed by all members of the school community in cases of suspected abuse.
6. To develop and promote effective working relationships with other agencies, especially the Police and Social Services.
7. To ensure that all adults within our school who have access to pupils have been checked as to their suitability.

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Procedures

Our school procedures for safeguarding pupils will be in line with Local Authority (LA) and Enfield Safe Guarding Pupils Board (ESCB) procedures. We will ensure that:

1. We have four designated members of staff and one governor who undertake regular training.
2. We have a member of staff who will act in the designated teachers' absence.
3. All members of staff develop their understanding of the signs and indicators of abuse.
4. All members of staff know how to respond to a pupil who discloses abuse.
5. All parents/carers are made aware of the responsibilities of staff members with regard to safeguarding procedures.

Our procedures will be regularly reviewed and updated.

All new members of staff will be given a copy of our safeguarding procedures as part of their induction into the school.

Responsibilities

The Governing Body

The Headteacher

The designated teacher is responsible for:

1. Adhering to the ESCB, LA and school procedures with regard to referring a child if there are concerns about possible abuse.
2. Keeping written records of concerns about a child even if there is no need to make an immediate referral.
3. Ensuring that all such records are kept confidentially and securely and are separate from pupil records.
4. Ensuring that an indication of further record keeping is marked on pupil records.
5. Ensuring that any pupil currently on the safeguarding register who is absent without explanation for two days is referred to Social Services.

Supporting Pupils

We recognise that a child who is abused or witnesses violence may find it difficult to develop and maintain a sense of self worth. We recognise that a child in these circumstances may feel helpless and humiliated. We recognise that a child may feel self blame.

We recognise that the school may provide the only stability in the lives of pupils who have been abused or who are at risk of harm.

We accept that research shows that the behaviour of a child in these circumstances may range from that which is perceived to be normal to aggressive or withdrawn.

Our school will support all pupils by:

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1. Encouraging self-esteem and self-assertiveness whilst not condoning aggression or bullying.
2. Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment within the school.
3. Liaising and working together with all other support services and those agencies involved in the safeguarding of pupils.
4. Notifying Social Services as soon as there is a significant concern.
5. Providing continuing support to a pupil about whom there have been concerns by ensuring that appropriate information is forwarded under confidential cover when the child moves to a new school.

Confidentiality

We recognise that all matters relating to Safeguarding are confidential. The Headteacher or Designated Teacher will disclose any information about a pupil to other members of staff on a need to know basis only.

All staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard pupils. All staff must be aware that they cannot promise a child to keep secrets.

All staff must be aware that they should never ask leading questions to a child they have concerns over.

Supporting Staff

We recognise that staff working in the school who have become involved with a child who has suffered harm (or appears to be likely to suffer harm) may find the situation stressful and upsetting.

We will support such staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the designated teacher and to seek further support as appropriate.

Allegations against Staff

We understand that a pupil may make an allegation against a member of staff. If such an allegation is made, the member of staff receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Headteacher.

The Headteacher, on all such occasions, will discuss the content of the allegation with the LA Lead Officer for Safeguarding, Durants **LADO is Maria Anastasi**
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) 0208 379 2746/2850

If the allegation made to a member of staff concerns the Headteacher, the designated teacher will immediately inform the Chair of Governors who will consult with the LA's Lead Officer for Safeguarding.

The school will follow the LA procedures for managing allegations against staff, a copy of which will be readily available in school.

Whistleblowing

We recognise that pupils cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so. All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the attitude or actions of colleagues.

Positive Handling (PRICE)

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Our policy on positive handling by staff is set out in the school's Behaviour Support Policy and acknowledges that staff must only ever use positive handling as a last resort, and that at all times it must be the minimal force necessary to prevent injury to another person.

We recognise that positive handling which causes or is likely to cause injury or distress may be considered under safeguarding or disciplinary procedures. This includes injury to self, another child or any other person.

Prevention

We recognise that the school plays a significant part in the prevention of harm to our pupils by providing pupils with good lines of communication with trusted adults, supportive friends and an ethos of protection.

The school community will therefore:

1. Establish and maintain an ethos where pupils feel secure and are encouraged to communicate and are always listened to.
2. Ensure that all pupils know there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.
3. The PSHE curriculum will include opportunities for pupils to learn the skills they need to stay safe from harm and to know to whom they should turn for help.

Health and Safety

Our Health and Safety Policy, set out in a separate document, reflects the consideration we give to the protection of our pupils both within the school environment and when away from the school when undertaking school trips and visits.

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