



Child Safety Standards Officer

Rationale:

A school leader for child safety should have sufficient status and authority, including leadership support and the ability to direct other staff (where appropriate), to undertake the role effectively.

Aims:

- act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff on matters of child safety
- liaise with the principal to maintain the visibility of child safety
- lead the development of the school's child safety culture, including being a child safety champion and providing coordination in communicating, implementing, monitoring, enhancing and reporting on strategies to embed a culture of child safety

Implementation:

- The Child Safety Standards Officer will be appointed by the principal and undertake the role for a period of two years.
- The Child Safety Standards Officer will:
 - ensure the school's policies are known and used appropriately
 - ensure the school's Child Safety Code of Conduct policy is reviewed in the context of school self-evaluation undertaken as part of the school accountability framework
 - ensure the Child Safety Code of Conduct policy is available publicly and parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the school referral process.
 - be alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers
 - encourage among all staff a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings in any measures to protect them.
 - keeping their skills up to date with appropriate training carried out every two years
 - have a working knowledge of how the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Community Service Organisations conduct a child protection case conferences and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so
 - be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referral
 - ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the school's Child Safety Code of Conduct policy and procedures, especially new and part time staff
 - make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and the latest DHHS and DET policies and guidance.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed annually

This policy was ratified by School Council July 2018