



**Five  
Rivers®**

## Safeguarding Policy

### Appendix - Willow Haven Centre

'Five Rivers is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment'

Policy Owner	Head teacher
Authoriser	Head of Education
Date of Original Issue	01/09/2023
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## What Staff Should do if a Child is in Danger or at Risk of Harm

All staff must follow the procedures set out below in the event of a safeguarding issue.

Please note – in this and subsequent sections, you should take any references to the DSL to mean “the DSL (or deputy DSL)”.

### If a child is suffering or likely to suffer harm, or in immediate danger

If you believe a child is suffering or likely to suffer from harm or is in immediate danger, tell the DSL immediately so that they can take appropriate action. A ClearCare form must also be written immediately.

### Shared Safeguarding Responsibilities

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility between the provision and the school at which the child is on roll. All safeguarding concerns, disclosures, and incidents will be recorded accurately and promptly on ClearCare. These records will be completed in partnership with, and communicated to, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at the child’s school to ensure a coordinated and timely response. Any documentation recorded on ClearCare will be shared securely by email with the named DSL within 24 hours of the concern being identified, in line with statutory safeguarding guidance and information-sharing protocols.

See the following link to the GOV.UK web page for reporting child abuse to your local council.  
<https://www.gov.uk/report-child-abuse-to-local-council>

### If a child makes a disclosure to you

If a child discloses a safeguarding issue to you, you should:

- Listen to and believe them. Allow them time to talk freely and do not ask leading questions, stay calm and do not show that you are shocked or upset
- Tell the child they have done the right thing in telling you. Do not tell them they should have told you sooner
- Explain what will happen next and that you will have to pass this information on. Do not promise to keep it a secret
- Write up your conversation on the Clearcare safeguarding form as soon as possible in the child’s own words. Stick to the facts, and do not put your own judgement on it.
- Sign and date the write-up and pass it on to the DSL.
- Aside from these people, do not disclose the information to anyone else unless told to do so by a relevant authority involved in the safeguarding process

Bear in mind that some children may:

- Not feel ready, or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited or neglected Not recognise their experiences as harmful
- Feel embarrassed, humiliated or threatened. This could be due to their vulnerability, disability, sexual orientation and/or language barriers

None of this should stop you from having a ‘professional curiosity’ and speaking to the DSL if you have concerns about a child.

You should not assume a colleague or another professional will take action and share information that might be critical in keeping children safe.

Early information sharing is vital for effective identification, assessment and allocation of appropriate service provision, whether this is when problems are first emerging, or where a child is already known to local authority children's social care (such as on a child in need or child protection plan).

You must understand that child protection issues warrant a high level of confidentiality, not only out of respect for the child and staff involved but also to ensure that being released into the public domain does not compromise evidence.

You should only discuss concerns with the designated person, head teacher or Director of Education. That person will then decide who else needs to have the information and they will disseminate it on a 'need-to-know' basis.

**If you have concerns about a child (as opposed to believing a child is suffering or likely to suffer from harm, or is in immediate danger)**

Where possible, speak to the DSL first to agree a course of action.

If in exceptional circumstances the DSL is not available, this should not delay appropriate action being taken. Speak to a member of the senior leadership team, Director of Education and/or take advice from local authority children's social care. You can also seek advice at any time from the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000. Share details of any actions you have taken with the DSL as soon as practically possible.

### **Early help assessment**

If an early help assessment is appropriate, the DSL will lead on liaising with other agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate. Staff may be required to support other agencies and professionals in an early help assessment, in some cases acting as the lead practitioner. We will discuss and agree, with statutory safeguarding partners, levels for the different types of assessment, as part of local arrangements.

The DSL will keep the case under constant review and the school will consider a referral to local authority children's social care if the situation does not seem to be improving. Timelines of interventions will be monitored and reviewed.

## Contact Details

Name	Role	Email	Mobile
Colin Douro	Headteacher Willow View Deputy DSL	<a href="mailto:Colin.douro@five-rivers.org">Colin.douro@five-rivers.org</a>	07925 029855
Sarah Vaughan	Lead Teacher	<a href="mailto:sarah.vaughan@five-rivers.org">sarah.vaughan@five-rivers.org</a>	07523 680329
Catherine Geraghty	Deputy Headteacher Willow View DSL	<a href="mailto:Catherine.geraghty@five-rivers.org">Catherine.geraghty@five-rivers.org</a>	07546696212

Kirsty Fletcher	National Safeguarding Lead	<a href="mailto:Kirsty.Fletcher@five-rivers.org">Kirsty.Fletcher@five-rivers.org</a>	07818098531
Chris Sweeney	Head of Education	<a href="mailto:Chris.Sweeney@five-rivers.org">Chris.Sweeney@five-rivers.org</a>	07547415304
James Hall	Director of Education	<a href="mailto:James.Hall@five-rivers.org">James.Hall@five-rivers.org</a>	07935066031
Shellie Barcroft	Education Advisor to the Board	<a href="mailto:Shellie.Barcroft@five-rivers.org">Shellie.Barcroft@five-rivers.org</a>	07718571525
Nicci Willock	CEO	<a href="mailto:Nicci.Willock@five-rivers.org">Nicci.Willock@five-rivers.org</a>	01722 435763

## **Warrington**

For more information, please see the [www.warringtonsafeguardingpartnerships.org.uk](http://www.warringtonsafeguardingpartnerships.org.uk)

The site includes:

- Information for parents and carers
- Information for Professionals
- Publications

You can find out more about online services and publications at these related websites:

[NSPCC](#)

[Department for Education \(DFE\)](#)

Contact Details

**Website:** [www.warrington.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families](http://www.warrington.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families)

### **How to report abuse**

- Report any safeguarding concerns about a child or young person to children's safeguarding and social work teams on **01925 443322**, press one and either say MASH or the name of the person if known
- Outside of office hours call us on **01925 444400**
- If you believe the child is at immediate risk of harm, call 999
- If you believe a crime has been committed, contact the police on **101**

