

### Safeguarding procedures in the school

As you are aware, we take the responsibility of safeguarding student's extremely seriously. The following is a summary of our safeguarding procedures in school.

We have established a team of nine dedicated safeguarding leads responsible for overseeing all safeguarding concerns within the school community. Each of our staff members has undergone specific training to effectively fulfil their safeguarding role. Our safeguarding team consists of:

- Mrs Nearney (Safeguarding Lead)
- Mrs Brazier
- Mrs Malik
- Mr Foster
- Mr Freeland
- Mrs Omar
- Mrs Shipp
- Mrs Laycock
- Mrs Cochrane

When a concern about a child arises, a member of our staff will engage in a conversation with the child involved to gain a comprehensive understanding of the situation. These concerns can be raised by students, staff members, parents, or external agencies. For instance, the police will inform us if one of our students is involved in an incident of domestic violence. Following these initial conversations, a decision will be made regarding necessary further action. In most cases, parents will be informed and consulted on the appropriate support measures for their child.

Here is an example of the support that may be implemented:

- **Parental meeting:** Parents will be invited in to discuss the concern raised. This meeting will take place with members of the safeguarding team.
- **Wellbeing Support:** Students in need of this support will be referred to Mrs Laycock and Mrs Omar, who oversee the provision. Regular sessions with a counsellor will be made available, although please note that there may be a waiting list.
- **External Agency Referral:** In some instances, we may recommend external agencies for specialised support. This can include referring students to CGL in situations involving concerns about drinking or substance misuse, GRIT for social, emotional, and mental health concerns, or CAMHS for more serious mental health matters.
- **Family Support Worker:** Some families may require the assistance of our dedicated Family Support Workers, who work closely with them to address their specific needs.
- **Social Services Referral:** Should the situation necessitate it, we may be required to make a referral to Social Services. Typically, we will involve parents in discussions about this referral and seek their consent. However, in exceptional cases where speaking to parents may jeopardize a child's safety, we may not be able to involve them in such discussion about whether a referral is made.

### **Further involvement from social services**

Once a referral to social services is made, the following may happen

#### **Child in Need**

It may be decided that a child or family is in need of further support. A team of professionals, led by a social worker, will have meetings with the family, targets will be set and support will be put in place.

#### **Child Protection Plan**

A child could be made subject to a Child Protection Plan. This is when there is a concern that a child is at risk of **Significant Harm**. A team of professionals, led by a social worker, will meet at a Child Protection Conference about what needs to be done to reduce the concern

At The Priory School, we place immense significance on ensuring the safety and well-being of all our students. If you have any queries or concerns regarding our safeguarding procedures, please do not hesitate to contact me. Your cooperation and support in establishing a safe environment for your child is greatly appreciated.