

Leigh Beck Infant Academy

Safeguarding Policy

At Leigh Beck Infant Academy the safety and protection of the children in our care is paramount.

Section 175 of the 2002 Education Act and Section 11 of the 2004 Children Act places upon all those who work with children a duty to safeguard and promote their welfare by creating a safe learning environment and where there are child welfare concerns, taking swift action to address them.

This statement is held true in every area of the curriculum including Computing.

Although the use of ICT and the internet provide ever increasing opportunities for children to expand their knowledge and skills, it is also the case that the use of such technology may sometimes expose children to the risk of harm. Apart from the risk of children accessing internet sites which contain unsuitable material, risks to the well being of children may also exist in a variety of other ways.

It is known that adults who wish to abuse may pose as children to engage and then meet up with the children or young people they have been in communication with. This process is known as 'Grooming' whereby an adult prepares a child or young person to be abused. The process may take place over a period of months using chat rooms, social networking sites and mobile phones. An adult may pretend to be a peer and gradually convince the child or young person that they are their boyfriend or girlfriend, establishing a relationship of apparent trust with the intended victim and making it difficult for the child to then speak out. Increasingly bullying is conducted on the internet or by the use of text messages and is therefore harder for schools to notice and deal with.

At Leigh Beck Infant Academy it is our high priority to create a safe learning environment through having effective arrangements in place to address a range of issues and ensure that our policies and procedures in

place are reviewed annually and adhered to by all staff, teaching and non teaching whether in a paid or voluntary capacity.

These issues are also covered and incorporated into our E-Safety, Behaviour, Acceptable Use and Child Protection Policies.

It is vital that all staff are aware of the signs which might indicate that a child is being groomed, bullied or being subjected to inappropriate material and know how to take steps to begin to address this and safeguard and support the child. All staff are aware of these matters and are actively involved in the creation and implementation of the guidelines for safeguarding children.

At Leigh Beck Infant Academy we strive to create a 'No Blame' culture and we encourage our children to be confident that this culture is evident so that when it comes to reporting inappropriate incidents involving the internet or mobile technology they are able to do this without fear. As part of this staff are informed and updated because as with all forms of harm or abuse, there is no exhaustive list of signs or indicators to watch out for. But these can include: changes in children's behaviour, demeanour, physical appearance and presentation, language or progress. Also we are vigilant that all staff know who to go to if they have a concern that a child or young person might be at risk or suffering harm as a result of the use of these technologies.

This policy has been reviewed and accepted by the Governing Body and shared and agreed by all staff.

Review date September 2019 with an interim review during the year taking into account county updates and technological advances.