

Safeguarding

What's the Governing Body's role in safeguarding our children?

Our Governing Body are very knowledgeable and experienced in safeguarding pupils and adults in school. Safeguarding is EVERYONE's responsibility, including governors. Several of our school governors are parents of the school, so bring another perspective to the strategic leadership of safeguarding.

Policies and procedures

It is the role of the Governing Body to analyse and ratify all safeguarding and child protection policies. They do this in line with the national or local statutory guidance, which is updated at least annually (in the case of KCSiE).

Like all staff, our governors are expected to read, understand and adhere to all safeguarding and child protection policies inline with the national statutory requirements. At the start of every school year, or when taking up post as a governor, all members of the Governing Body read these policies and complete a quiz to confirm their understanding.

Safer Recruitment

All governors undergo the same safer recruitment processes as all other staff. This includes DBS checks, ID checks and, for governors only, S128 Checks. Governors are provided with personalised badges once all checks are complete. All governors complete a safeguarding induction with our DSL and are trained in the same way as staff, for example completing 3-yearly Child Protection, Prevent and online safety training. Additionally, all of our governors have completed Strategic Safeguarding training, delivered by GCC's safeguarding team. Throughout their term as governor, Governors are provided with training as directed by GCC or the DFE, or to respond to our school's need.

A key role of the Governing Body is to ensure all safer recruitment procedures are in place for staff and visitors. Where possible, a school governor is involved in the interview process of staff and we have governors who have completed Safer Recruitment training with GCC so that they can fulfil this part of the role confidently.

Visiting school

Governors regularly visit school and must sign in/out, wear their lanyard and follow the school's procedures in the same way as all visitors and members of staff. Children know that an 'orange' lanyard is worn by our school governors, and these lanyards show the photograph and name of the governor. Children are aware that they are 'safe' adults and have received all the required checks to be in school and that children can speak to them safely on their own.

Data

Part of the Governing Body's role is to be aware of need in the school. Names/classes or any other personal information is never shared with school governors – the information provided is on a school-level, not individual level. It's important that they're aware of the school's needs, as a whole, so that finance and support can be directed accordingly. This information is shared during committee meetings or Full Governing Body meetings.

Monitoring

Having read the school's policies and knowing our procedures and systems in place, all governors are well-equipped to monitor the effectiveness of safeguarding and child protection in school. When in school, for whatever reason, Governors are tasked with monitoring safeguarding and child protection processes. This means that if a governor is attending a maths meeting, for example, they must still monitor & report back to FGB about the safeguarding procedures they observe when on site. Specific safeguarding visits take place termly, when our "Safeguarding Governor" analyses the effectiveness of safeguarding in school & our adherence to statutory requirements.

Governors also conduct pupil and staff conferencing activities to ensure everyone is well equipped in keeping themselves and each other safe.

If you have any questions about what you have read, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Together we can!