

Safeguarding and the new OFSTED requirements

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Definition of safeguarding

8. Ofsted adopts the definition used in the Children Act 2004 and in 'Working together to safeguard children'. This can be summarised as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health or development
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

9. Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. It relates to aspects of school life including:

- pupils' health and safety
- the use of reasonable force
- meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions
- providing first aid
- educational visits
- intimate care
- internet or e-safety
- appropriate arrangements to ensure school security, taking into account the local context.

Definition of safeguarding

10. Safeguarding can involve a range of potential issues such as:

- bullying, including cyberbullying (by text message, on social networking sites, and so on) and prejudice-based bullying
- racist, disability, and homophobic or transphobic abuse
- radicalisation and extremist behaviour
- child sexual exploitation
- Sexting
- substance misuse
- issues that may be specific to a local area or population, for example gang activity and youth violence
- particular issues affecting children including domestic violence, sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

Questions to ask on safeguarding

1. Is the Single Central Register overseen by a member of SMT and has it been externally checked to ensure it meets current requirements e.g. with prohibitive list checks etc?
2. Do the staff files contain the critical information needed to ensure all checks of staff who work with children have been made e.g. copies of passport, right to work, required qualifications, references etc?
3. Does the school have a Child Protection Policy, has it been recently updated and is it on the school website?
4. Is there a designated teacher for child protection and has he/she had recent and appropriate training?
5. Have the staff received safeguarding training recently?
6. Are there clear and robust procedures for identifying children causing concern and clear record keeping of incidents and actions?
7. Does the school maintain records of behaviour? Are behaviour incidents analysed to check for trends and identify actions?
8. Does the school keep records specifically relating to bullying, harassment, and discriminatory behaviour?
9. Are records of accidents reviewed and checks and post accidents followed up?
10. Is there a Safeguarding Governor and how does he/she ensure that the school is meeting statutory requirements regarding safeguarding?

Questions to ask on safeguarding (cont)

11. Ask staff who they would go to with CP concerns
12. What is the procedure for children who go missing or off roll?
13. Are pupils taught about different types of bullying/safety?
14. Is restraint ever used – how is this documented?
15. Is there a teacher responsible for Looked After Children? Have they received training?
16. What steps are in place to ensure that schools know that there are no existing or new staff working in Nursery or Reception that are not disqualified by association. If there were any what action did the school take?
17. Is the CP safeguarding lead aware of the Multi Agency Practice Guidelines that are available in respect of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)? How alert are staff to the possible signs that a child has been subject to FGM or is at risk of being abused through it? What sort of training has there been on this issue?

18. Has the school completed a Safeguarding Audit?

