



Safeguarding Social Contact outside of school

Additional References

*Policies for: Confidentiality
E Safety
Safeguarding*

Wolverham Primary and Nursery School fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect all children and support pupils in school.

There are three main elements to Child Protection:

Prevention: A positive school atmosphere, teaching and pastoral support to pupils

Protection: By following agreed procedures, ensuring staff are trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to Child Protection concerns.

Support: To pupils and school staff and to children who may have been abused

Social Contact Outside of School

Adults should **not** establish or seek to establish social contact with pupils for the purpose of securing a friendship or to pursue or strengthen a relationship.

If a pupil or parent seeks to establish social contact, or if this occurs coincidentally, the member of staff should exercise his/her professional judgement in making a response. There will be occasions when there are social contacts between pupils and staff, where for example the parent and teacher are part of the same social circle or attend the same church/social groups. These contacts however, will be easily recognized and openly acknowledged and details shared with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Nevertheless, there must be awareness on the part of those working with children and young people that some social contacts, especially where these are not common knowledge can be misconstrued as being part of a grooming process. This can also apply to social contacts made through outside interests or through the staff member's own family.

It is recognized that staff can support a parent who may be in particular difficulty. Care needs to be exercised in those situations where the parent comes to depend upon the staff member for support outside their professional role. This situation should be discussed with the Head Teacher and where necessary referrals made to the appropriate agencies.

Adults Must:

- ❖ Have no secret social contact with pupils or their parents in both person or using social media
- ❖ Always have another adult present in out of workplace activities involving pupils
- ❖ Consider the appropriateness of social contact according to their role and nature of their work
- ❖ Always approve any planned social contact with children or parents with the Headteacher and or if the event is not planned inform the Head Teacher on returning to school after the event
- ❖ Advise the Headteacher of any social contact they have with a child or parent with whom they work which may give cause for concern
- ❖ Report and record any situations, which may place a child at risk or which may compromise the school or their own professional standing
- ❖ Be aware that the sending of personal communications such as birthday or faith cards should always be recorded and discussed with the Headteacher/Deputy
- ❖ Understand that some communication may be called into question and need to be justified
- ❖ Be aware that behaviour in their personal lives may impact upon their work with pupils
- ❖ Follow any codes of conduct deemed appropriate by the school
- ❖ Understand that the behaviour and actions of their partners/family members may raise questions about their suitability to work with children

If a member of staff from within the school has, or intends to have, contact with pupils or parents from the school, it is essential to ensure that the Headteacher is made fully aware.

Policy reviewed September 2016

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