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<b>Statement:</b>	Safeguarding
<b>Statement Ref:</b>	CMS12
<b>Review Date:</b>	May 2024
<b>Next Review:</b>	May 2027
<b>Authorised by:</b>	Headteacher

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Clare Mount SSC will ensure all policies and procedures in respect of safeguarding children are up to date and in line with annually-produced statutory guidance: Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 (KCSIE).

As a Beacon Well School, the school believes that health and happiness are the key to successful safeguarding and teaching pupils about their own physical, mental and social health is an essential part of our approach to keeping them safe and equipping them to develop and grow as respectful citizens, aware of their own rights (rights respecting school).

### **Safeguarding Statement**

Safeguarding children - the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm - is everyone's responsibility, with everyone who comes into contact with children having a role to play. (In this document a child is defined as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, however, as a school we apply this care to any pupil attending the school – up to 19 years – due to their special educational need and vulnerabilities).

Effective safeguarding systems are child centred. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;

and

- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

**Child protection** –Part of safeguarding and promoting welfare but refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

**Abuse**- is maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a

stranger for example, via the internet. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

To fulfil our commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, the school has in place:

- recruitment and human resources management procedures and commissioning processes, including contractual arrangements, which take account the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. This includes arrangements for appropriate checks on new staff and volunteers and adoption of best practice in the recruitment of new staff and volunteers to ensure that the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people takes place at each stage of the process.
- checks on existing staff will be carried out if there are concerns on their suitability to work with children, or if a person moved to work in regulated activity and had not been checked in their previous role;
- a clear culture of listening to and engaging in dialogue with children – seeking their views in ways appropriate to their age and understanding, and taking account of those both in individual decisions and the establishment or development and improvement of services;
- an understanding of how to work together to help keep children and young people safe online by being adequately equipped to understand, identify and mitigate the risks of new technology;
- procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers;
- arrangements to ensure that all staff undertake appropriate training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities; effectively, and keep this up to date by refresher training at regular intervals; and that all staff, including temporary staff and volunteers who work with children, are made aware of both the school's arrangements and their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children;
- policies for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children (for example, pupils/students), including a child protection policy, effective complaints procedures that are in accordance with guidance from the local authority and locally agreed inter-agency protocol;

- arrangements to work effectively with other organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including arrangements for sharing information in a timely way; and
- appropriate whistle blowing procedures and a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to be addressed.

Under the provisions of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act, 2006, a provider of regulated activity (including schools) has a duty to make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) when it believes that a person has caused harm or poses a future risk of harm to vulnerable groups, including children.

**Specific to Clare Mount:** To ensure the safeguarding needs of all our pupils (staff and members of the wider community) Clare Mount as a range of policies and procedures in place to prevent harm:

- Senior leaders and Governors undertaken timely Safer Recruitment training;
- All staff undertaken safeguarding training from the LA on a regular basis with updates given by the Designated Safeguarding Lead as and when necessary;
- School has identified a Designated Safeguarding Lead (currently the Pastoral Deputy Head) and a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (currently the Academic Deputy Head), with all matters of concern shared and discussed with the Headteacher.
- School has a clear system for reporting and recording concerns through password protected CPOMS.
- School has developed strong relationships with a range of multi-agencies to cover safeguarding children in our school. This includes those in Child Protection (CP), Children in Need (CIN), Team around the family (TAF), and Children Looked After (CLA). A termly report is shared with Governors relating to the status of these pupils, along with any referrals to Wirral Integrated Front Door (IFD).
- School is supported by a Safer Schools Officer (currently PC Teresa Doherty) who, in normal circumstances, is on hand on a weekly basis to offer advice and guidance on any concerns (including online activity) raised by pupils, staff, family members and the wider community.
- Any allegations involving or relating to staff are taken very seriously and referred to the LADO for advise and guidance in consultation with the Headteacher.

- School has a comprehensive counselling service in place to support any pupil in danger of self-harm.

References: This document adheres to the legislative requirements and expectations of individual services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and is taken from protecting children guidance and Working Together to Safeguard Children - interagency guidance, published July 2018. This government document is available to staff and governors. The school has a number of policies in place to safeguard children and young people such as child protection policy, whistle blowing, complaints procedures.