



The Vineyard Primary School Independent Review of Safeguarding October 13th 2022

A review of the school's relevant policies and procedures was undertaken in addition to supplementary interviews with a number of stakeholders which contextualised the work. A section 11 self-audit was completed alongside this report on the school's chosen format by Michele Robbins.

Documentation Review

1. Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2022
2. Data Protection Policy 2022
3. Behaviour Policy 2022
4. Anti-bullying Policy 2018
5. E-Safety Policy
6. PSHE and SRE Policy

Interviews:

1. Key members of staff, including the Headteacher and Assistant Headteachers, SENDCo and Early Years Lead, ECTs, Administration Staff, Support Staff including HLTA and Premises Officer.
2. Nominated Safeguarding Governor and Chair and Vice Chair of Governing Board
3. Brief interviews with a range of parents
4. 11 children interviewed from KS1 to KS2

Context

The Vineyard is a popular three-form entry Primary School located at the top of Richmond Hill, London. It has places for 630 children and currently there are 619 on roll. The school does not have a Nursery.

There are over fifty nationalities and a high percentage (54%) of children are bilingual. This makes for interesting curriculum choices and an interesting approach to safeguarding and communication with families. A very small number of children are in receipt of the PPG funding (5%) and SEND is in line with national averages.

A new Headteacher joined the school in November 2021 and is making a positive impact, this view is shared by all stakeholders (Governors, parents, staff and children). In her first year she has focused on culture and developing a new school ethos and set of values, parents are very appreciative of her open communication and presence.

In the past year there has also been a number of staff changes; with the retirement of a long standing Deputy this has allowed for new leadership opportunities. One being the new DSL, who was

previously a Director of Teaching and Learning in Key Stage 1. There have also been a number of new class teachers (currently 7 ECTs in the school).

The school commissioned a Safeguarding Review to evaluate the impact of the school's safeguarding processes and policy and also offer CPD to the new DSL.

The school's previous Safeguarding Audit took place in 2019.

Outcomes of Section 11 Safeguarding Audit:

Strengths

Safeguarding is extremely effective at The Vineyard.

The Headteacher ensures that Safeguarding and Child Protection is a school priority. She has achieved this by appointing a large SG Team and ensuring all are adequately trained. In addition to this the Chair and Vice Chair of the Governing Board have a sound understanding of the Board's responsibilities and encourage innovative and research-based practice through their own expertise and knowledge.

The DSL is class based for 1 day a week and devotes her time to leadership responsibilities for the rest of the week, of which Safeguarding is central. She has incredibly high expectations of herself and takes her work extremely seriously. She clearly thrives from working strategically and because the SG operations/systems are working so soundly across the school (and are well monitored and evaluated) this gives her the time and opportunity to work in this way. Consequently Safeguarding is a thriving aspect of school life, one where staff are encouraged to not only meet their statutory responsibilities but go further and innovate.

This culture of thinking big / bigger is seen among the staff team too, key staff members spoken to (Daisy Dempster, Nicky HLTA, Mary Qulter to name a few) are all keen to learn. During meetings all named staff members completed their discussions with 'tell me more' a demonstration for their openness and eagerness to develop.

The systems in place at The Vineyard are all in place. This was clear from all conversations had today which triangulated and confirmed a unified understanding and response.

Areas for development:

The audit has identified a small number of tweaks for development, to prioritise these the first 3 are:

Communication

Further work could be done to polish the Safeguarding comms / information with parents and children. Not enough parents or children seemed to know who or what the DSL was. This is something that the DSL is likely to have many ideas of how to address, ones spoken about during the audit included

- Safeguarding corner on the weekly newsletter

- Information available to all parents in the up and coming Parents Evening
- Safeguarding information evening for parents

In terms of communication other elements to update:

- Ensuring all staff working in the school have ways to communicate concerns, developing a paper copy of the CPOMs referral doc for those staff members who do not have online access

Supervision

To bring clarity on how supervision will be used for senior DSLs and others involved in Safeguarding

Training

To ensure all staff are Level 2 trained and that over the next term the school sources training for staff, Governors, children and parents on transgender / transition and LGBTQI+ experiences and challenges. This is something that the Chair of Governors and HT is already proactively sourcing support with.

Mrs Sophie McGeoch

Primary Strategic Lead for the Every Child Every Day Trust

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