

## Our Commitment to Safeguarding

At Aston Rowant Primary School, the safety, wellbeing and happiness of every child is our highest priority. Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do and underpins daily life in school. We work hard to create a calm, caring and respectful environment where children feel safe, valued and confident to talk to adults if they are worried about anything.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All staff, governors and volunteers play an active role in keeping children safe and promoting their welfare.

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## A Strong Safeguarding Culture

Our safeguarding culture is built on trust, vigilance and professional curiosity. Staff know our pupils well and are alert to changes in behaviour or wellbeing that may indicate a concern. Children tell us they feel safe in school, know who they can talk to, and are confident that adults will listen and help.

Safeguarding is woven into our decision-making, routines and relationships. We regularly review our practice to ensure it reflects current guidance, emerging risks and the needs of our community.

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## Safeguarding Leadership

Safeguarding is led by a trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), supported by a Deputy DSL. Together, they provide clear leadership and ensure that safeguarding systems are effective, responsive and regularly reviewed.

The DSL team works closely with staff, pupils, families and external professionals to ensure concerns are managed sensitively and appropriately, and that children receive the right support at the right time.

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## Governance and Oversight

The governing body takes its safeguarding responsibilities very seriously. Governors maintain strong oversight of safeguarding arrangements and ensure that statutory duties are met. Safeguarding is a regular item on governing body agendas and is monitored through reports, school visits, and discussions with staff and pupils.

This ensures a clear line of accountability and supports continuous improvement in safeguarding practice.

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## Early Help and Working with Other Agencies

We believe that identifying concerns early and offering timely support can make a significant difference to children and families. Clear systems are in place to identify pupils who may need additional help or protection.

The school works closely with parents and carers, as well as with external agencies such as social care, health and education services. Where appropriate, we seek advice, make referrals and contribute to multi-agency plans to ensure coordinated and effective support for children.

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## Reporting Concerns and Record-Keeping

All safeguarding concerns are taken seriously. Staff are trained to report concerns promptly using clear procedures, and understand how to escalate worries if required.

The school uses a secure, centralised system to record, track and review safeguarding concerns. Records are managed confidentially and shared appropriately with other schools when pupils move on, ensuring continuity of support.

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## Safer Recruitment and Allegations Management

We are committed to safer recruitment and ensuring that all adults working with children are suitable to do so. Recruitment procedures are robust and compliant with statutory guidance, and appropriate checks are carried out for all staff and volunteers. Our Single Central Record is regularly reviewed and audited.

Clear procedures are in place for managing allegations or concerns about adults working in school, as well as concerns about peer-on-peer behaviour. Where necessary, advice is sought promptly from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) to ensure matters are handled appropriately.

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## Safeguarding Education and Pupil Voice

Children are taught how to keep themselves safe through a carefully planned and age-appropriate curriculum. This includes learning about relationships, online safety, and how to recognise and respond to risks.

We actively encourage pupils to share their views and concerns. Their wishes and feelings are listened to and taken into account in safeguarding decisions, helping them to feel confident, empowered and respected.

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## Working with Parents and Visitors

We recognise that safeguarding works best when school and families work together. Parents and carers are encouraged to speak to us if they have any concerns about their child or about safeguarding in general.

Visitors and volunteers are expected to follow our safeguarding procedures whilst on site. Information for visitors is clearly shared to ensure everyone understands their role in keeping children safe.

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## Overall Effectiveness

Safeguarding arrangements at Aston Rowant Primary School are effective. Strong leadership, knowledgeable governors, confident staff and well-established systems ensure that pupils are safe, supported and able to thrive.

We are committed to ongoing reflection and improvement, and our safeguarding practice is regularly reviewed to ensure it remains strong and responsive to the needs of our pupils and community.

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*Our safeguarding arrangements are informed by current statutory guidance, including Keeping Children Safe in Education.*