

SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

The Merrywood family recognises their professional and statutory responsibilities to safeguard the welfare of all children in their care. Safeguarding is passionately driven and will be at the heart of all our decision making and interventions. We will strive every day to provide an environment in which children feel safe, valued and aspire to achieve the best they can be, knowing they are fully supported. Our children will be respected, and feel confident to talk if they are worried, knowing they will be listened to. All staff will maintain an attitude of “It could happen here”.

Safeguarding children for us means a relentless focus on:

- 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

All staff receive training and the latest information about the school’s safeguarding arrangements, staff behaviour policy and our child protection policy.

- We will be alert to all forms of abuse, bullying and neglect and other maltreatment of a child, including online threats.
- We recognise somebody may abuse or neglect 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 by a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.
- All staff are aware of the ‘one chance’ rule in relation to other threats such as CSE, forced marriage, FGM and HBV. Staff recognise they may only have ‘one chance’ to speak to a child who is a potential victim and have just one chance to prevent harm or save a life.

We will constantly review and refine our approaches, ensuring we continually improve our learning environment and arrangements.