

Reigate Parish Church Primary School

Whistle Blowing Policy

(using the Surrey Children's Services Model Policy for Schools)

Reviewed by Children, Standards and Learning Committee **Autumn 2017**
Next review **Autumn 2018**

Reigate Parish Church Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will undertake an Enhanced Disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau.

Who we are

Reigate Parish Church Primary School: A trusting, respectful and caring place for children to reach their full potential, with the Christian faith and Christian values at our heart.

Our Aims

- We aim to recognise, nurture and harness the strengths and talents of all children.
- To provide a broad, balanced and creative learning environment through excellence in teaching.
- To promote social, cultural, moral and spiritual development, supporting pupils and staff to become confident and responsible members of society.
- To establish an atmosphere in which each child has a positive self-image and where individual achievements are valued by all.
- To build self-confidence, self-esteem and independence in order to achieve success.
- To value curiosity, encourage a questioning attitude and promote a love of life-long learning.
- To grow from being an outstanding infant school into an outstanding primary school whilst maintaining our caring ethos, culture and atmosphere.
- And, working in partnership with parents, to support their child's learning and development.

Values

Our guiding principles, which stem from our Christian faith, are: **'Faith, Hope & Love'**. These are underpinned by 10 core values:

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1. **Respect:** Valuing myself and other people, and treating them as I would like to be treated.
2. **Friendship:** Being thoughtful and kind, looking after each other through good times and hard times.
3. **Honesty:** Speaking the truth and acting truthfully.
4. **Caring:** Being concerned for and looking after myself, other people and God's world.
5. **Perseverance:** Always doing my best and not giving up.
6. **Confidence:** Knowing that I am special and loved and that I have something to offer to other people.
7. **Responsibility:** Being able to take charge of myself, other people or things. Being able to be trusted to do the right thing.
8. **Forgiveness:** Loving people even when they make mistakes. Always looking for the best in each other.
9. **Trust:** Being relied on to do the right thing and relying on each other to do the right thing.
10. **Being Creative:** Using our imagination, ideas and skills to make the world a better and more beautiful place.

Introduction

This policy has been written in line with Surrey Children's Service's "Staff Concerns and the Freedom to Express Them ("Whistleblowing")" SCC November 2002.

Staff* must acknowledge their individual responsibility to bring matters of concern to the attention of senior management and/or relevant agencies. Although this can be difficult, this is particularly important where the welfare of children may be at risk.

You may be the first to recognise that something is wrong but may not feel able to express your concerns out of a feeling that this would be disloyal to colleagues, or you may fear harassment or victimisation. These feelings, however natural, must never result in a child continuing to be unnecessarily at risk. Remember it is often the most vulnerable children who are targeted. These children need someone like you to safeguard their welfare.

Don't think "what if I'm wrong?" - think "what if I'm right?"

(*wherever the word staff is used, it covers ALL staff on site, including ancillary supply and self-employed staff, contractors, volunteers working with children etc, and governors)

Reasons for whistle blowing

Each individual has a responsibility for raising concerns about unacceptable practice or behaviour

- To prevent the problem worsening or widening
- To protect or reduce risks to others
- To prevent becoming implicated yourself

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What stops people from whistle blowing

- Starting a chain of events which spirals
- Disrupting the work or project
- Fear of getting it wrong
- Fear of repercussions or damaging careers
- Fear of not being believed

How to raise a concern

- You should voice your concerns, suspicions or uneasiness as soon as you feel you can. The earlier a concern is expressed, the easier and sooner action can be taken
- Try to pinpoint exactly what practice is concerning you and why
- Approach your immediate manager, Headteacher, or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The Lead DSL at Reigate Parish Church Primary School is Headteacher, Frances Davis and Deputy DSLs are Charlotte Jagtiani and Tara Wallace.

If your concern is about the Headteacher, or you feel you need to take it to someone outside the school, contact Mr Duncan Barkwith (Chair of Governors) on chairofgovernors@reigate-parish.surrey.sch.uk

- Make sure you get a satisfactory response - don't let matters rest.
- Ideally, you should put your concerns in writing, outlining the background and history, giving names, dates and places where you can.
- A member of staff is not expected to prove the truth of an allegation but will need to demonstrate sufficient grounds for the concern.

What happens next

- You should be given information on the nature and progress of any enquiries.
- Your employer has a responsibility to protect you from harassment or victimisation.
- No action will be taken against you if the concern proves to be unfounded and was raised in good faith.
- Malicious allegations may be considered as a disciplinary offence.

Self reporting

There may be occasions where a member of staff has a personal difficulty, perhaps a physical or mental health problem, which they know to be impinging on their professional competence. Staff have a responsibility to discuss such a situation with their line manager so professional and personal support can be offered to the member of staff concerned. Whilst such reporting will

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remain confidential in most instances, this cannot be guaranteed where personal difficulties raise concerns about the welfare or safety of children.

Further advice and support

It is recognised that whistle blowing can be difficult and stressful. Advice and support is available from your line manager, personnel department and/or your professional or trade union.

**"Absolutely without fail –
challenge poor practice or performance.**

**If you ignore or collude with poor practice it makes it harder to sound the alarm when things go
wrong"**

(reproduced with acknowledgement to "Sounding the Alarm" – Barnardos)

This policy links with the Child Protection Policy.