

## **SAFEGUARDING AND THE STUDENT WELLBEING MULTI-AGENCY GROUP (MAG)**

### **Background**

Riverside School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every student, and we expect all staff, governors, students, volunteers and friends of the school to share this commitment. Safeguarding awareness and procedures form an important part of every adult's induction into the school, and regular refresher training is carried out with all staff.

As required by the Children Act, 2004 and the DfE (Department for Education) '*Working together to safeguard children May 2016*' the school has a Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, and comprehensive procedures linked to, and informed by the '*London Children Safeguarding Board – London Child Protection Procedures and Practice Guidance – 5<sup>th</sup> edition, 31 March, 2016*'. When necessary these procedures are followed by staff under the guidance of the school's three trained and accredited Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs), in order to effectively safeguard the health, welfare and safety of students.

All students are allocated a Wellbeing folder when starting at the school. New parents are informed of the Student Wellbeing Multi-Agency Group (MAG) protocols and the processes regarding the MAG's work at Riverside and signed agreement is sought from all parents.

### **The Student Wellbeing MAG**

The school hosts fortnightly Student Wellbeing MAG meetings throughout the school year. The group discusses any students for whom there may be worries about their health and wellbeing for a medical, emotional, psychological, social or safeguarding perspective. All meetings are attended by a core group which consists of:

- *Headteacher (DSL)*
- *Deputy Headteacher (DSL)*
- *School Nurse*
- *Therapies Lead*
- *Manual Handling Coordinator*
- *DCT (Disabled Children's Team) Manager.*

Other professionals invited to all or part of the meeting, according to the individual students being discussed, are:

- *Riverside classteachers and support assistants; speech and language therapists (SaLTs); physiotherapist; occupational therapist (OT); consultant paediatrician; psychiatrist or psychologist from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health-Learning Difficulties (CAMHS-LD) Team; educational psychologist (EP); educational welfare officer (EWO); family support workers; music and art therapists; paediatric dietician; teacher of the visually impaired; teacher of the hearing-impaired.*

Core group members and visitors to the MAG are bound by a code of confidentiality. The meetings are clerked and records kept. A fortnightly pack of minutes is produced, from which individual sheets are filed in individual folders.

The format of the meetings is based on the 'Signs of Safety' model. The MAG looks at three areas when thinking about students:

*What are we worried about?*

*What's working well?*

*What needs to happen next?*

At the close of discussion, a safety score is given to the student. As the situation improves for students over time, they can proceed to a score of 10 in which case they are taken off the MAG list. (For some students it would not be safe to take them off the list due to the nature of their medical needs – these students need high levels of vigilance at all times).

The aim of multi-agency working is to utilise collaborative working through consistent communication channels, sharing skills and information. Further planned meetings for students/parents often occur as a result of Wellbeing MAG discussions – these are organised by the lead professional within the particular discipline. Should child protection issues arise from a Wellbeing MAG meeting, one of the school's nominated Safeguarding Leads will take these forward in line with established protocols and procedures.

All adults involved with the school have a duty of care to raise any queries or concerns they may have regarding any possible risk to students' safety or Wellbeing in or outside school. When there is a need to share a concern with social services, the social services Group involved will then decide on any action to be taken, including possible engagement of Health and/or Police authorities.

It is not the school's role to undertake investigations. We will always seek to work in partnership with parents, and try to ensure that they are fully informed of, and participate in, any action concerning their child. However, the welfare of the student will always be the paramount consideration in all cases.

To avoid unnecessary misunderstandings around this very sensitive area, we always ask parents to let us know about the cause/circumstances of any injury, (e.g. bruises, burns, scalds) or emotional upset, however minor, that any student may sustain outside school.

School staff or the school nurse may telephone home if there are unexplained issues and will need to be satisfied that there is no cause for concern. The school, in turn, will always let parents know when a child has had an accident/incident in school either by telephone or in the home/school book dependent on the circumstances. Written records are kept in school of all accidents and incidents.

Year: .....

## **PROTOCOL FOR SERVICE DELIVERY THROUGH RIVERSIDE**

### **WELLBEING MULTI-AGENCY (MAG) MEETINGS**

This protocol sits alongside two other related documents, the *Protocol for Joint Working between Whittington Teaching Primary Care Trust and Special Schools in the London Borough of Haringey* and the *Purpose of the Link Social Worker to the Special Schools*.

1. Wellbeing MAG meetings are attended by combinations of the following professionals: Headteacher; Teachers; School Nurse; Consultant Paediatrician; Speech and Language Therapists (SALTs); Physiotherapist; Occupational Therapist; Teacher of the Visually Impaired; Teacher of the Hearing Impaired; Occupational Therapist; Paediatric Dietician; Child and Adolescent Mental Health-Learning Difficulties, (CAMHS – LD), psychiatrist and psychologist; Disabled Children's Team Manager; FABLE Family support worker.
2. All are bound by a code of confidentiality. Students from the Whittington Health Groups may also attend Wellbeing MAG meetings and are bound by the same code.
3. The fundamental principle within multi-agency working is to ensure a 'Team Around the Child' approach to the work, emphasising collaborative working through consistent communication channels, sharing skills and information.
4. New parents are informed of this protocol and the processes around multi-agency group working at Riverside and signed agreement is sought.
5. Further planned meetings for students/parents often occur as a result of Wellbeing MAG discussions – these are organised by the lead professional within the particular discipline.
6. Should child protection issues arise from a Wellbeing MAG meeting, one of the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads will take these forward in line with established protocols and procedures.

**Haringey Children's Community Health Service**

Year: .....

Dear New Parent

**Student Wellbeing Multi-Agency Group working at Riverside School**

Please find attached a copy of the school's Protocol for the 'Student Wellbeing Multi-Agency Group' (MAG), discussions at Riverside. This model of working to support students is very effective since advice and guidance can be shared among a group of representative professionals with different areas of expertise.

Throughout the school year, every second Wednesday at Riverside, from 1:30-3.30 pm, the Wellbeing MAG meets to discuss students from a health and wellbeing and safety perspective, and make sure every student is receiving the help and support they need. The school's internal Multidisciplinary Team, (MDT), also attend and contribute to Wellbeing MAG meetings, bringing their knowledge of students' needs from their direct therapeutic work.

Please confirm below that you are happy in principle for the Wellbeing MAG to include your son/daughter in discussions when required.

Thank you,



Martin Doyle / Headteacher

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**Wellbeing Multi-Agency Group working at Riverside**

**Student's name:** .....

*I give consent for my son/daughter's needs to be discussed as appropriate at school 'Wellbeing MAG' meetings.*

**Signed:** ..... **(Parent)**

**Name:** ..... **(Parent)** **Date:** .....