

Safeguarding and the Student Well-Being MAT

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 – 5th edition, 31 March, 2016*'. When necessary these procedures are followed by staff under the guidance of the school's trained and accredited Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs), in order to effectively safeguard the health, welfare and safety of students.

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

The school hosts fortnightly Student Well-Being MAT, (Multi-Agency Team), meetings. These are attended by a core group which consists of headteacher (DSL), deputy headteacher, school nurse, Therapy Lead, manual handling coordinator and DCT (Disabled Children's Team) manager.

Other professionals invited according to the individual students being discussed are: classteachers; 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.

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 Well-Being MAT discussions – these are organised by the lead professional within the particular discipline. Should child protection issues arise from a Well-Being MAT 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 well-being in or outside school. When there is a need to share a concern with social services, the social services team 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

WELL-BEING MULTI-AGENCY (MAT) 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. Well-Being MAT 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 teams may also attend Well-Being MAT 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 team working at Riverside and signed agreement is sought.
 5. Further planned meetings for students/parents often occur as a result of Well-Being MAT discussions – these are organised by the lead professional within the particular discipline.
 6. Should child protection issues arise from a Well-Being MAT meeting, one of the school's nominated Safeguarding Leads will take these forward in line with established protocols and procedures.
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Year:

Dear New Parent

Well-Being Multi-Agency Team working at Riverside School

Please find attached a copy of the school's Protocol for 'Well-Being Multi-Agency Team' (MAT), 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 1:45 pm-3.15 pm the Well-Being MAT meets to discuss students from a health and well-being, safety and safeguarding 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 Well-Being MAT meetings, bringing their knowledge of students' needs from their direct therapeutic work.

Please confirm below that you are happy in principle for the Well-Being MAT to include your son/daughter in discussions when required.

Best Wishes

Martin Doyle / Headteacher

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Well-Being Multi-Agency Team working at Riverside

Student's name:

I give consent for my son/daughter's needs to be discussed as appropriate at school 'Well-Being MAT' meetings.

Signed: (Parent)

Name: (Parent) **Date:**