



CHARLIE EASTWOOD

Board of Governors, Member
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Dear DC Community,

Having been a Governor-elected Governor for approaching six years I took on the role of the Safeguarding Lead last Spring. By closely coordinating with the Leadership Group and in particular the Head of Student Welfare it is my role on behalf of the Governing Body to ensure that safeguarding procedures are properly observed, and that child protection is a priority matter: in other words, ensuring our children's right to feel safe in the school's care.

Lisa Ethridge started last month's blog with an observation that the pandemic had changed life in fundamental ways for everyone, but that the school community has displayed amazing resilience in working through it all. As true as this may be, it would be unrealistic to ignore the fact that the Pandemic and the school closure in particular has had, and continues to have, an adverse impact on individuals within the school community, especially as regards social isolation and interrupted learning.

This month's blog focuses on Safeguarding at DC and my headline is that you can be reassured that the staff of the school has a first-class system in place to address safeguarding issues that affect our children, some of which will have grown out of the crisis.

Staff training is delivered through a leading Ed Tech company, [tes Global](#) and occurs at induction, with regular refresher training that updates staff on changes in statutory guidance. Cases in the school are registered and managed through the Child Protection Online Management System (CPOMS). Where necessary, interventions are made designed to help these individuals put in place coping mechanisms that enable them to self-regulate and make good choices. No one is ever 'deleted' from the CPOMS system whilst they are still in the school, but they do shift between levels according to how their progress is judged.

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The annual PASS Survey and a local regular wellbeing survey are also be used to flag any issues to the Leadership Group and Board, even if it is to say that no issues have been identified: the surveys have the obvious potential flaw that they only represent the input and participation levels on that day.

All case interventions balance discretion within a caring approach that is impressively comprehensive and deliberate.

Finally it is worth being aware that there are other ways in which student welfare is. The annual PASS Survey and a local regular wellbeing survey are also be used to flag any issues to the Leadership Group and Board, even if it is to say that no issues have been identified: the surveys have the obvious potential flaw that they only represent the input and participation levels on that day.

Whilst there can be no guaranteed failsafe process that will prevent any and all safeguarding issues, the school has developed an approach that goes significantly beyond merely observing its legal obligations and is clearly doing its collective best to ensure that our children are being educated in a safe and resilient atmosphere.

Charlie Eastwood