What can you expect from us?

- A safe environment in which your child can learn that complies with safeguarding legislation and guidance.
- We will take good care of your child while they are with us and listen and act on any concerns they share with us.
- We will keep accurate, up to date records.
- If your child transfers to another school we will share important information with their new school that will help to support your child’s move.
- We will contact you if your child is absent, and you have not told us why, to ensure they and you are safe and well.
- We will respond promptly to any problem or concern you tell us about.
- Our staff will offer support and assistance needed.

Our Safeguarding, Child Protection and associated policies are available from the office or on our website:

www.doucecroft.org.uk

Head Teacher: Jane Smart
Doucecroft School
Abbotts Lane
Eight Ash Green
Colchester
Essex
CO6 3QL

www.doucecroft.org.uk
doucecroft@autism-anglia.org.uk
01206 771234

Facebook www.facebook.com/Doucecroft
What is Safeguarding?

Children should be safe from harm and danger, and it is everyone’s responsibility to ensure that they are. Safeguarding means protecting children from harm and acting on concerns for a child’s safety and wellbeing. Harm includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse; and neglect.

Why do you need to know?

The Children Act 1989 requires everyone working with children to inform Social Care about any child thought to be in need of support or at risk of harm. The Education Act 2002 requires all schools to have in place arrangements to safeguard children. The school has procedures in place to do this and a policy that all staff, volunteers and regular visitors must work to. You can request a copy of this policy from the school office.

There are five members of staff whose job it is to be responsible for all aspects of safeguarding our school. We also have a Safe Guarding Lead for Autism Anglia and a Named Trustee for Safeguarding.

Key Safeguarding Contacts
• Alan Bicknell, Lead Safe Guarding officer
• Jane Smart, Head Teacher
• Mandy Spragge, Care Manager
• Gayle Jones, Assistant Positive Behaviour Manager
• Jackie Austin, Deputy Care Manager
• Hayley Fraser, Head of Further Education

What do you need to know?

Once a referral has been made, Social Care will have to decide how to proceed. They may decide no further action is needed or a social worker may contact you to discuss the referral. The social worker may also want to speak to other professionals involved with your family and may need to consult with the Specialist Child Protection police team (Child Abuse and Investigation Team).

What will happen if we have concerns for your child?

If the school has a concern that your child is, or may be, suffering harm within or outside the school we will act according to our statutory duty under the Education and the Children Acts to protect your child from any harm or danger.

All schools have a duty to refer cases if they have a safeguarding concern.

What does this mean?

What concerns may we have for your child?

• If someone at our school sees an unusual or unexplained injury or mark
• If your child has disclosed something worrying to us
• If it has been reported to another agency that something has been said or witnessed by your child
• If their behaviour is particularly out of the ordinary
• Or, if there are any other reasons we feel your child may be suffering harm at any time, we have a legal duty to make a referral

We will discuss the referral with you if appropriate and also let you know it has been made, unless if to do so might put your child at more risk. It is always better for your child if we can work together.

How will you feel?

We understand that you may feel angry, upset or worried because we have made a referral.

The decision to make a referral is never taken lightly. However, every member of staff or volunteer that works at every school has a legal duty to act in the best interests of the children at all times. This means acting quickly to reduce any risks where a child’s safety is of concern.