

# Safeguarding

## **Safeguarding at the Orchard school.**

Safeguarding is about keeping children and young people safe from abuse or neglect. All those who come into contact with children and families in their everyday work, have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Safeguarding is what we do for all children. It is hoped that if we safeguard our children effectively we can keep them free from significant harm of Emotional, Physical and Sexual Abuse or from Neglect.

At the Orchard school we are aware of the particular challenges that parents face in ensuring their children are happy and as healthy as possible. We believe by working with parents and families and with support from other agencies we can best meet their needs. These may include Children's community nurses, Social workers from the Children with disability team, Early Help workers as well as organisations such as Sense, Kids or Out to play.

We take safeguarding the pupils very seriously and all staff and Governors understand their role in ensuring children are safe.

The Designated Safeguarding lead is the acting Deputy Head teacher Barbara Ackerley and in her absence Diane Ellingham and Allison Shepherd deputise.

This page will be used to offer important information to parents and carers regarding issues surrounding Safeguarding & Child Protection. It also provides you information on how we safeguard your children at the Orchard school

## **Child Sexual Exploitation**

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse which sees children/young people being manipulated or coerced into sexual activity for receiving 'something' such as; gifts, money, food, attention, somewhere to stay etc. Technology is very often used to groom victims. This may occur through social networking sites and mobile phones with internet access. CSE has gained a large amount of media attention over the last year as lots of services involved with children and young people have noticed a big rise in cases involving CSE.

Charities such as [NSPCC](#) and [Barnardos](#) have been campaigning to raise the profile of this form of child abuse.

## **Internet Safety**

Children and young people spend lots of time on the internet. They may go online to research information for homework or to play games, chat with friends and make new ones. The internet holds a massive amount of useful information and can also be a really good way of learning about new things and keeping in contact with friends

and family. It can also be a very dangerous place so it is important that children are protected and monitored when they are online.

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) has lots of information about how to keep your children safe online and parental controls. The link to the website is below.

[CEOP - Thinkuknow](#)

### **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

In April 2014 every school in England received new safeguarding guidelines and detailed information on identifying and responding to Female Genital Mutilation. FGM is a procedure carried out on young girls between the ages of infancy and 15 years of age.

Female Genital Mutilation is classified as a form of Child Abuse in the UK. It therefore makes the procedure of it a serious Child Protection issue. It is illegal for anyone to perform FGM in the UK or to arrange for a child to be transported to another country for the procedure. The maximum sentence for carrying out FGM or helping it to take place is 14 years in prison.

There is lots of information and support available online for parents/carers concerned about this subject or if you know someone who is at risk:

- Contact the Police if you think that a girl or young woman is in danger of FGM and is still in the UK.
- Contact the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (020 7008 1500) if she's already been taken abroad.

The NSPCC has detailed advice on how to spot the signs, symptoms and effects of FGM and provides support for people who are concerned about a child or who have been affected themselves. The link to the website is below.

[NSPCC FGM](#)

### **Reporting a Concern of Abuse or Neglect**

If you have concerns that a child you know is at risk of serious harm through Abuse or Neglect it is important that you report your worries to the correct agency.

- The link below will direct you to Sandwell Social Service page, which tells you how to report a concern.

[Link to Sandwell Childrens safeguarding board .](#)

- Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) is a statutory board which has been set up as part of the Every Child Matters government reforms. SSCB ensures that all organisations that work with children work together to keep children and young people safe from harm. SSCB undertakes this role through providing training, the development of policies and procedures and awareness raising.

To view our safeguarding polices and useful guidance, please click on the links below.

[Children Missing Education](#)

[Female Genital Mutilation Risk and Safeguarding](#)

[Information Sharing](#)

[Prevent Duty](#)

[What to do if you're worried a child is being abused](#)

[Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2016](#)

[Multi -agency Statutory Guidance on Female Genital Mutilation](#)

[Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools](#)

[Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2016](#)

[Sexting in Schools and Colleges](#)