



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Safeguarding Newsletter

March 2025



WHY HAVE A NEWSLETTER?

Welcome to our first safeguarding newsletter. Safeguarding and Child Protection is such an key issue we have decided to provide newsletters throughout the year that will share key information and advice so that we can all deepen our understanding and work together with the same aim of keeping children safe in school, at home and in the wider community.

Safeguarding relates to many areas of life at Our Lady's including children's physical health and safety, well-being, managing medical conditions, attendance, internet safety, relationships, first aid, road safety as well as other issues.

At Our Lady's, we feel it is important to work with our parents and with other agencies that support schools so that we can offer a safe environment that allows children to be aware of the risks that they may face and how to respond to them safely. We hope that our curriculum gives our children opportunities to explore many of these issues equipping them with the right knowledge, understanding and tools to make safe choices.

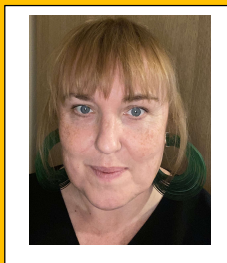
WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE DSL AT OUR LADY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL?

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has a crucial role in taking lead responsibility for child protection issues in school. Currently, we have three DSLs and one member of this team is always available during schools hours for staff and parents to discuss any safeguarding concerns. DSLs are trained to take on this role and that training is updated every two years with additional training in between. The DSL has many responsibilities including:

- working in partnership with key agencies, parents and families;
- making sure all staff are trained and know how to raise concerns;
- maintaining accurate and secure child protection records using CPOMS;
- raising awareness of the school's safeguarding policies and procedures, ensuring they are implemented and reviewed.

MEET THE DSLs

Miss Quinn- Lead DSL



Mr Shepherd – Deputy DSL
In Charge of Online Safety



Mrs Minchin – Deputy DSL
In Charge of Early Help



USEFUL ACRONYMS AND INFORMATION

DSL: Designated
Safeguarding Lead

KSCMP: Kent Safeguarding
Children Multi-agency
Partnership – you can
request support for a child
using this site

NOS: National Online
Safety

CEOP: Child Exploitation &
Online Protection Centre

CPOMS: Child Protection
Online Monitoring and
Safeguarding system –
software used by the
school to record all
safeguarding concerns

LADO: Local Authority
Designated Officer, who
deals with position of trust
safeguarding issues

Prevent: Part of the
government's counter
terrorism strategy to stop
people being drawn into
terrorism

DBS: Disclosure and
Barring DBS Service used
to make safer recruitment
decisions

Key safeguarding
information is available on
the school website:
<https://www.our-ladys.kent.sch.uk/safeguarding-1/>

WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.



Child Protection

Child protection is part of the safeguarding process. Child protection is the focusing on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes child protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child.

Types of Harm

We all have a responsibility to keep children safe, both at home and in school. Harm can be identified in four ways:

Physical – when a child is deliberately hurt or injured.

Sexual – when a child is influenced or forced to take part in a sexual act that they do not understand, cannot give consent to and which is not acceptable in our society. This can include: inappropriate touching, taking of obscene photographs as well as a sexual physical act.

Emotional – when a child is made to feel frightened, worthless or unloved. This ranges from rejection, refusing to show a child love or making a child unhappy by belittling or verbally abusing them.

Neglect – when a child is not being taken care of. This includes poor hygiene or diet as well as not properly supervising them.

Here are some of the areas that as a school we focus on to ensure pupil safety.

Keeping Children Safe in Education

Keeping Children Safe in Education is the key document that all schools must follow. Here is the link below.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66d7301b9084b18b95709f75/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2024.pdf

The posters below explain 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and what the role of staff is in safeguarding children.



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



A child means everyone under the age of 18.



Children need the right help at the right time to address risks



Remember 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned.



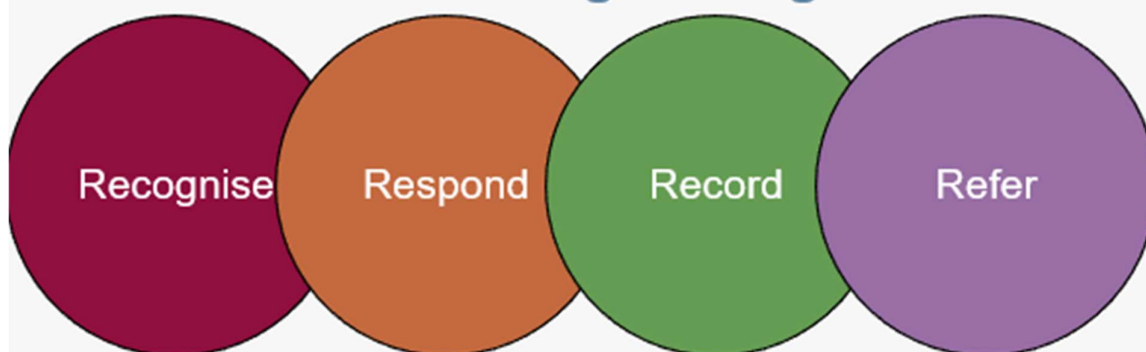
We are all responsible for the welfare of children and keeping the environment safe, whatever our job.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as: protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.



Working Together to Safeguard Children Role of Staff in Safeguarding Children



Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play

Reporting Concerns

You can raise any concerns you may have by talking to your child's class teacher or one of the school's DSLs. These members of staff can be contacted via the school office.

Online Safety

Online safety is concerned with safeguarding in the digital world and covers issues relating to children as well as adults, and the safe use of the internet and technology, both in and out of school. Below are the key focus areas.

The 4 C's of Online Safety



01

Content

Being exposed to illegal, inappropriate, or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation, and extremism.



02

Contact

Being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them.



03

Conduct

Online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images, online bullying etc,



04

Commerce

Risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams. If you feel your pupils, students or staff are at risk, please report it to the Anti-Phishing Working Group (<https://apwg.org/>).

Operation Encompass

Our Lady's participates in a national scheme called 'Operation Encompass', which is a joint partnership between Thames Valley Police and schools. One of the principles of Operation Encompass is that all incidents of domestic abuse are shared with schools. The school will receive an email on the morning after the incident.

This system has been established to help schools provide in-school support to children who have been present at, exposed to or involved in any domestic abuse incidents. We know that children can be significantly harmed, physically and/or emotionally, and it can also affect their learning and behaviour.

We are here to help and support everybody during this difficult time.

The Prevent Duty

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse, protecting children from this risk are part of the school's duty of care. All schools and colleges are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA 2015), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

'Educate Against Hate', <https://www.educateagainsthate.com/> a website launched to offer support and guidance in this area. Below are posters explaining 'The Prevent Duty'.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Think You Know

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

NSSPCC:

www.nspcc.org.uk

Child-safe:

www.child-safe.org.uk

Internet Matters

www.internetmatters.org

National Bullying Helpline

www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk

ChildLine

www.childline.org.uk

Telephone: 0800 1111

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre

www.ceop.police.uk

Telephone: 0870 000 3344

SAFEGUARDING IS
EVERYBODY'S
RESPONSIBILITY

IF IN DOUBT...
ALWAYS ASK

Prevent Definitions

The following are commonly agreed definitions within the Prevent Agenda.



Ideology:

An Ideology is a set of beliefs.

Radicalisation:

Radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism that may lead to terrorism.



Safeguarding:

Safeguarding is the process of protecting vulnerable people, whether from crime, other forms of abuse or from being drawn into terrorism-related activity.

Terrorism:

Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence, damage or disruption and is intended to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made with the intention of advancing a political, religious or ideological.



Vulnerability:

Vulnerability describes factors and characteristics associated with being susceptible to radicalisation.

Extremism:

Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British Values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.



The Prevent Duty

OUR COMMITMENT TO MEETING THE PREVENT DUTY CAN BE SUMMARISED AS FOLLOWS:

P

Promotion of Equality and Diversity and positive relationships between staff and learners

Referral of any concerns via safeguarding staff to relevant authorities

R

E

Embedding British Values and education for learners on all courses.

Vetting learners and employers, and removal of any posters or other materials of an extremist nature.

V

E

Environment - providing a safe and secure working and learning environment

News - monitoring for any concerns in the locality.

N

T

Training of staff to raise awareness of the signs and risks.

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



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