Ashmole Primary School Safeguarding Newsletter

Excellence

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Welcome to our Ashmole Primary School Safeguarding Newsletter!

At Ashmole Primary School, Safeguarding & Child Protection is of paramount importance for our children, as a result of this we have decided to send parents a half termly newsletter. Our newsletter aims to share key information and advice with parents and carers to enable us to work together with the shared aim of keeping children safe in school, at home and in the wider community.

Safeguarding relates to many areas of life at Ashmole Primary including mental health issues, attendance, Online safety, the dangers of radicalisation, child sexual exploitation, FGM, neglect, domestic violence and more. We offer a safe environment that educates the children on being aware of the risks they may face and how to respond to them safely. Our school curriculum gives children opportunities to explore many of these issues in a safe environment—through PSHE, SRE and Circle Time.

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

Safeguarding means:

- Protecting children from abuse and maltreatment.
- Preventing harm to children's health and development.
- Ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

Who are the Safeguarding Team at our school?

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Miss Costas

Deputy Safeguarding Lead – Mr Tofallis

Deputy Safeguarding Lead – Mrs Toal

Designated Safeguarding lead for the Trust - Mrs McLaren

Safeguarding Governor - Dr Bowry

What is a Designated Safeguarding Lead?

At Ashmole Primary School we have a Designated Safeguarding Lead Team and sometimes we may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies when there are concerns about a child's welfare. We will ensure that our concerns about our pupils are discussed with their parents/carers first, unless we have reason to believe that this would put the child at further risk of harm.

All members of our team are trained senior members of staff who take the lead responsibility for child protection. The key aspects of the 'Designated Safeguarding Lead' role include:

- Making sure all staff are aware of how to raise safeguarding concerns.
- Ensuring all staff understand the symptoms of different types of abuse and neglect.
- Investigating concerns and referring any concerns to social care or the appropriate external agencies.
- Working closely with parents and families.
- Monitoring children who are the subject of child protection plans.
- Maintaining accurate and secure child protection records.
- Raising awareness of the school's safeguarding policies and procedures, and ensuring they are implemented and reviewed regularly.

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The 4 main categories of abuse are;

Emotional abuse

Physical abuse

Sexual Abuse

Neglect

Safeguarding also relates to many other areas of abuse including;

Radicalisation and Prevent Duty   Mental Health Issues   Online safety   Child sexual exploitation

FGM   Domestic violence   Gang Influence   Cyber-bullying   County Lines

Useful Acronyms & Vocabulary about Safeguarding.

CPP – Child Protection Plan

DBS : Disclosure & Barring DBS Service used to make safe recruitment decisions

DSL : Designated Safeguarding lead.

EWO : Education Welfare Officer.

KCSiE : Keeping Children Safe in Education (Education Guidance, England)

MASH: Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.

PREVENT: Part of the PREVENT Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn into extremism.

TAF – Team Around the Family

Concerns - If the school have concerns that a child is being harmed or at risk of being harmed, we have a duty of care to report this immediately. This referral is made to the Barnet or Enfield MASH team.

What is the MASH? - The MASH team is the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub, a multi-agency team made up of social workers, police officers and health professionals, with representatives from the following services who provide advice and information as needed: Probation, Housing, Youth Services, Drug and Alcohol Service, Mental Health Services and Domestic Violence Services.

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 children at all times. This means acting quickly to reduce any risks where a child's safety is of concern.

What does the MASH do? -If the MASH team believe the child would benefit from extra help, or that the parents/carers need support to help care for the child, they will refer the family on to the right service. However, if the team thinks the child may be at risk of harm or abuse, they will each share any information their agency has about the family and decide what action needs to be taken to keep the child safe.

How does it work? - When the team receives a referral, and they are worried about a child, each agency will pass information they have on the family to the social worker who uses this to decide what help the child and family need and whether the child is at risk of harm. By sharing information as soon as possible, the team can get a better understanding of what difficulties families may be facing. This way, they can make sure that they can offer the family the right kind of help and support at the right time.

Online Safety!

The online world can be exciting and inspiring. It has lots of opportunities to offer young people. However, it is important to manage and minimise the associated risks and harms. As a school we are continuing to build on highlighting the importance of staying safe online and are organising online safety workshops for pupils and staff and will also be inviting parents to a workshop, which we hope will be informative and helpful for all.

What do your children enjoy doing online?   Have you set up parental controls through the games' settings?

What services and devices do they use?   Have you set up controls on the console/device/phone?

The four c's of online safety

Content – Some online content is not suitable for children and may be harmful or hurtful. Some content, games and services are age-rated or age-restricted. It is important for children to consider the reliability of online material and be aware that it might not be true, or written with a bias or to persuade.

Contact- It is important for children to realise that new friends made online may not be who they say they are and that once a friend is added to an online account, you may be sharing your personal information with them.

Conduct - Children need to be aware of the impact their online activity can have on themselves and other people, and the digital footprint that they create on the internet. It is easy to feel anonymous online and it is important that children are aware of who is able to view, and potentially share the information that they may have posted.

Commerce – Spending money, sharing data and being exposed to advertising or other commercial interests can happen across many apps and online platforms. Children should be aware that many of the influencers and personalities they engage with online will be paid to advertise.

Age Restrictions for online platforms

TikTok – You must be over the age of 13 years old to use TikTok.

Whatsapp – You must be at least 16 years old to use this app.

Instagram and Threads – You must be 13 years old or above

Fortnite- 12 years or above

Roblox – You should be age 12 and above to play games on this platform.

Spotify – 18 years old to agree to the terms or 13+ obtain parent/guardian consent

Minecraft - Rated as 7+ or 12+ depending on which game version you are playing. The App store rate it as 9+ and the Google Play store rate it as 10+.

Top Tips

➢ Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online. What games do you and your friends like to play online? Can you show me the website you visit the most? Shall we play your favourite game online together?

➢ Have regular conversations about staying safe online and to encourage your children to speak to you if they come across something worrying online.

➢ Talk to your children about creating a safe online environment, including keeping any login details and passwords safe.

➢ Ask them if they know where to go for help – where they can go to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use.

➢ Set up home filtering in a child-friendly way and set up age- appropriate parental controls on digital devices.

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Get help and support

There are lots of organisations who work to support families and children. Visit childnet.com/get-help if you're worried about an online concern.

NSPCC
0808 800 5000
nspcc.org.uk
Free support and advice for adults concerned about the safety or wellbeing of a child.

family lives
0808 800 2222
familylives.org.uk
Free support and advice on any aspect of parenting and family life.

YOUNGMINDS
fighting for young people's mental health
0808 802 5544
youngminds.org.uk
Free support and advice on how to support young people's mental health and wellbeing.

Helplines for children & young people

childline
0800 11 11
childline.org.uk
Providing help and support for under 18s.

THE MIX
0808 808 4994
themix.org.uk
Providing help and support for 13-25 year olds.

Making a report

For advice on the reporting tools for popular games, apps and social media platforms visit childnet.com/how-to-report for more information.

Report Harmful Content is a national reporting centre offering advice and links to industry reporting tools. It also provides support by reviewing outcomes after a report has been made on a platform or app.

reportharmfulcontent.com

Report suspected online child sexual abuse or grooming to your child's school/local police. If necessary, contact the **Child Exploitation and Online Protection command** (CEOP).

ceop.police.uk

Report online child sexual abuse images and videos with the **Internet Watch Foundation**'s anonymous reporting tool.

iwf.org.uk