



Ashmole Primary School Safeguarding Newsletter



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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

Useful Acronyms & Vocabulary about Safeguarding.

BICS- Barnet Integrated Clinical Service (a Wellbeing and Mental Health Service).

CAMHS- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

CCE- Child Criminal Exploitation.

CSE- Child Sexual Exploitation.

DSL: Designated Safeguarding lead.

MASH: Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.

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

Ashmole Primary School Safeguarding Newsletter 2!

Welcome to our second Safeguarding newsletter. Thank you for the great feedback on our first newsletter, we hope to continue to build parents/carers knowledge on what Safeguarding entails, signs you may have observed and ensure everyone is aware of how to report a concern to ensure all of our pupils are safe and happy. As always, all key information is on our Ashmole Primary School website including how to report a concern as well as where our Safeguarding and Online Safety newsletters can also be found.

<https://www.ashmoleprimary.org/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=92>

Reminder: Our Online Safety Workshop will be held in the school hall on 1st March 2024 from 9-10am. We hope to see you there!

This newsletter will focus on;

Child on child abuse

This is inappropriate behaviours between children that are abusive in nature including physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, exploitation, sexual harassment, all forms of bullying, coercive control, hazing/initiation rituals between children and young people, both on and offline (including that which is within intimate personal relationships).

Bullying (including cyber bullying)

Defined by the Ashmole Primary School as; ‘the deliberate/premeditated targeting of an individual using physical or mental abuse to cause harm and/or intimidation and distress over a period of time. It can happen face-to face or online.’

Child Criminal exploitation

County lines - County lines is a form of criminal exploitation where urban gangs persuade, coerce or force children and young people to store drugs and money and/or transport them to suburban areas, market towns and coastal towns (Home Office, 2018). It can happen in any part of the UK and is against the law and a form of child abuse.

Discrimination

Discrimination is “treating someone unfairly because of who they are.” (Citizens Advice, 2022)

Homophobic Language

This means, terms of abuse that are often used towards LGBT+ or those thought to be LGBTQ+.



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What is child on child abuse?

Children can abuse other children, often referred to as child-on-child abuse. This can happen face to face or often online. All staff at Ashmole Primary School have a clear understanding of our school policy and procedures with regard to child-on-child abuse and the important role they have to play in preventing it and responding where they believe a child may be at risk from it. Child on child abuse occurs when a young person is exploited, bullied and/or harmed by their peers who are the same or similar age. This type of abuse can relate to various forms of abuse (not just sexual abuse and exploitation). Child on Child abuse is most likely to include but may not be limited to:

- Bullying, cyber-bullying including prejudiced-based and discriminatory bullying including prejudiced-based and discriminatory bullying.
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers.
- Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens, and/or encourages physical abuse)
- Sexual violence such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault; (this may include an online element which threatens and/or encourages sexual violence)
- Sexual harassment such as sexual comment, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be a standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party
- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi nudes images and or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery)
- Upskirting which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause humiliation, distress or alarm. Upskirting is now a criminal offence under the Voyeurism Act.

It is recognised that many forms of child on child abuse can be online, occur via social media or other electronic platforms. At Ashmole Primary School, children are taught through our PSHE lessons/ Online Safety Lessons and workshops about how to speak out if they know something is not right. Any form of peer on peer abuse is taken very seriously at Ashmole Primary School. If you have any concerns about peer on peer harm or abuse, please speak to a member of the safeguarding team.

Bullying

Learning to understand and manage conflict is an important part of growing up. Bullying is not simply a 'falling out' with friends. Often experiencing bullying can have a significant impact on a child's life well into adulthood. To ensure we are able to prevent bullying, act quickly when it takes place and avoid misidentifying bullying, it is vital that we have a shared definition of bullying (Anti Bullying Alliance). At Ashmole Primary School we recognise that bullying is 'the deliberate/premeditated targeting of an individual using physical or mental abuse to cause harm and/or intimidation and distress over a period of time. It can happen face-to face or online.'

Bullying can take many forms. The main forms are:

- Emotional - excluding, tormenting (e.g. threatening gestures).
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence.
- Racist- racial taunts, graffiti, gestures.
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing.
- Cyber - All areas of internet, such as email and internet chat room misuse.

Mobile threats by text messaging and calls.

Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera and video facilities.

We are committed to providing a happy, caring, friendly and welcoming environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a secure and safe atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school and we have a **ZERO** tolerance to bullying policy. This is something that is highlighted every day through our values-based curriculum. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell someone and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. Please refer to our Anti bullying policy on the school website for further information.

<https://www.ashmoleprimary.org/page/?title=Policies&pid=14>



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What is 'county lines'?

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised crime groups who exploit children to transport and sell drugs, normally between big cities where the exploiters are based in smaller towns, sometimes across county boundaries but also locally and within the borough. The children involved have dedicated mobile phone lines or other forms of 'deal line' to enable them to take orders for drugs.

Who are the victims and how are they recruited?

Criminal gangs are taking advantage of younger children but both boys and girls of all ages are at risk. Children as young as 6 are known to have been targeted by gangs for this purpose. Children are used as they are less likely to be stopped by police, allowing adult dealers to avoid the risk of arrest.

What to do if you have concerns -The best advice is to trust your instincts. Even if someone isn't involved in county lines drug dealing, they may be being exploited in some other way, so it's always worth speaking out. You can speak to your local police by dialling 101, or in an emergency 999.

Discrimination

Discrimination is "treating someone unfairly because of who they are." (Citizens Advice, 2022). When a person is being discriminated against, they are being treated differently or being put at a disadvantage because of their opinions or judgements of them.

By law, there are 9 characteristics that are protected from discrimination under the Equality Act 2010:

Age	Disability	Religion/Belief	Gender Reassignment	Race/Ethnicity
sex	Marriage/Civil Partnership	Pregnancy/Maternity	Sexual Orientation	

If someone is targeted or treated unfairly because of one or more of these characteristics, then they are being unlawfully discriminated against.

At Ashmole Primary School we celebrate diversity and teach the importance of this to all children. We do not tolerate discrimination in any form and it will always be challenged. When children use discriminatory language, we always follow this up with the pupil and the parent/carer and educate the pupil on why this language is unacceptable.

Homophobic Language

Homophobic language means terms of abuse that are often used towards LGBT+ or those thought to be LGBTQ+. Some of the most common form of homophobic language heard in schools is 'that's so gay' and 'you're so gay'. These comments are sometimes directed towards people who are actually, or perceived to be, gay. However, they are most often used to mean that something is bad or rubbish, with no conscious link to sexual orientation at all. Often the use of such language is dismissed as banter, however allowing the use of 'gay' to be used to mean bad or rubbish without being challenged has an extremely negative effect on gay young people's self-esteem. This impact also extends to pupils who have gay friends, family or loved ones. At our school we are committed to ensuring that we celebrate diversity and promote acceptance, always challenging any homophobic views if they are to arise. All staff are aware of how to challenge the use of homophobic language and the children know that homophobic language will not be tolerated. Parents will always be informed if their child uses such language and the pupils will be further educated on why such language is unacceptable.



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At Ashmole Primary School we are extremely lucky to work with our experienced therapist Cindy Heather to provide additional support to children in our school with their mental and health and wellbeing. Cindy works with children individually and in groups through a variety of therapies including; Drawing and Talking, Lego Therapy, Talking Mats, Sensory Therapy and Play Therapy. If you have concerns in regards to your child's mental health/wellbeing please see myself (Miss Costas) or Mrs Toal (SENCO) to share your concerns and together we can discuss ways that our school can provide further support.



Has someone done something online that has made you or a child or young person you know feel worried or unsafe? Click **the graphic left** to make a report to one of CEOP's experienced Child Protection Advisors.



ThinkUKnow is a free, evidence-based cyber safety program that provides accessible cyber safety education to parents, carers and teachers.



Childline is a free 24 hour counselling service for children and young people up to 18 in the UK, provided by the NSPCC.



Childnet - a non-profit organisation working with others to help make the internet a great and safe place for children.