



## Useful Information

A meeting has been arranged for the Spring term 2016, for parents to further discuss Child Protection and Safeguarding.

For more information, or to get a better insight on how to recognise and identify forms of abuse and mistreatment visit the following sites:

### **Hackney Child Protection**

[www.hackney.gov.uk/childprotection](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/childprotection)

### **NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)**

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

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### **Help for adults concerned about a child caught up in gangs, sexual exploitation, radicalisation or abuse:**

Call the **NSPCC** on 0808 800 5000

### **Help for children who are victims of abuse or any other mistreatment:**

Call **ChildLine** on 0800 1111

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child at Millfields Community School please do not hesitate to contact the school Designated Safeguarding Lead, Katherine Gill or the Headteacher, Jane Betsworth

It is estimated that for every child identified as needing protection from abuse **another 8 are suffering abuse**



# SAFEGUARDING

## Handbook for Parents



**At Millfields we strongly believe that children have a right to feel safe and secure and cannot learn effectively unless they do!**



## What the school does to keep our children safe ...

At Millfields Community School we have a moral and statutory duty to safeguard and protect the welfare of all our children. We provide a welcoming and safe environment where our children feel safe, respected, valued and cared for. We have strict procedures and guidelines to ensure that children receive effective support and protection and are safe.

### School Procedures:

- We ensure staff members are trained in Child Protection, and Safeguarding procedures and practices.
- We ensure signs of concern are picked up at an early stage.
- We ensure staff are trained on the positive handling of children
- All contractors and visitors working on site have a valid DBS check, which must be presented to the school office staff upon arrival together with valid photo ID.
- No personal cameras/phones or other electronic devices are used to take pictures/videos of the children while working on site

### Through Assemblies and Class Curriculum:

- Children have opportunities to talk about and discuss issues in a safe, non threatening environment.
- Children learn how to keep safe online, not only in chatrooms etc, but also when generally browsing the net
- Upper Key Stage 2 take part in Drug Awareness workshops
- Children are taught Sex and Relationship Education (SRE), including understanding and respecting ones personal space and how to build healthy relationships with friends and peers
- Children are made aware of the signs of bullying/cyber-bullying, and know whom to talk to about such issues
- Children are taught about healthy eating and having a healthy lifestyle, including the importance of sleep & physical exercise
- Children are taught the risks of stranger danger
- The NSPCC provide talks to our children on how to keep safe, helping them to understand unacceptable situations
- Classes take part in circle time: giving them opportunities to talk, discuss and express their views on personal and social issues that concern them
- Fire safety is taught by both school staff and visitors from the LFB
- Cycle and road safety awareness workshops and courses are delivered by an outside agency



## Safeguarding Children is Everybody's Busi-

My friend keeps asking for food from my packed lunch box. He said his mum can't afford to do shopping this week. I feel sorry for him. Should I tell my teacher?

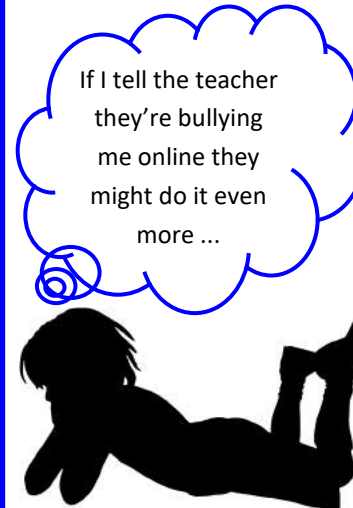
My friend is always talking to people she doesn't know online. She keeps asking me to join their chats but my mum said I should not get involved. Should I tell someone?

My dad said I deserve to be punished because I'm a bad person. I'm scared he might hit me again. Is it ok to tell someone? I don't want him to be in trouble

If I tell the teacher they're bullying me online they might do it even more ...

I think my son's friend is being neglected at home. He's always poorly dressed and hungry. Who should I talk to?

**It is essential that we all work together to ensure that our children are safe, happy and secure**





## Parents & School Working Together ...

**IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF A CHILD, YOU SHOULD ACT WITHOUT DELAY!**

Children often don't tell others about the treatment they are experiencing or witnessing because they are frightened about what may happen to them. They feel they may not be believed and although they want it to stop, they may love or care for the person and not want them punished. In some cases the child may be scared that the person will find out that they have spoken to someone and worried that the situation will get worse. It is therefore important that we are sensitive and listen to children to ensure they feel that they can talk to us and trust that we will protect and help them.

- If the school is concerned about a child they will discuss this with the parent/carer first, unless they believe the child is in immediate danger.
- The school have a duty of care to all children and will report concerns that they have to the FAST team (First Access and Screening Team).
- Always report any injuries your child has to your child's teacher or to the school office.
- Parents should feel assured that although the services will always work in the best interest of the child, they will support families throughout the process



## Report it!

Over **29,000 children and young people** contacted ChildLine about abuse last year

If you have concerns about a child's safety and wellbeing, including a child in your family you must **say something**. If you have any concerns or suspicions, you can speak to the school's safeguarding person or head teacher, however you may prefer to report a concern anonymously to any of the safety teams detailed on the back of this leaflet.

***'Say something if you see something'***



## Child Protection & Safeguarding Concerns

There are many forms of abuse and neglect, many of which the majority of people understand, however, there are some aspects that some adults may deem acceptable due to personal or cultural beliefs. Regardless of cultural or personal beliefs, these still fall under the child protection policy. The main safeguarding and child protection categories are:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse (including exploitation/grooming/child trafficking etc)
- Child Neglect
- Radicalisation and extremism
- FGM (Female Genital Mutilation)

Police recorded almost **95,000 offences of cruelty & neglect** against children last year



## Safeguarding links to Attendance & Punctuality

Attendance and punctuality play a strong part in the safety and welfare of our children.

There is a link between poor attendance at school and concerns with the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children. We take attendance very seriously and monitor all pupils attendance on a weekly basis.

The school has an attendance and welfare officer who works alongside the school, parents, carers and other public services to ensure that we safeguard our vulnerable children and reduce truancy.



There are currently **over 50,000 children** identified as needing protection from abuse in the UK

There are four main forms of abuse that most affect children in the UK:

### 1. Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

### 2. Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may also involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing the child to frequently feel frightened or in danger.

### 3. Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration or non-penetrative acts such as kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

### 4. Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food and clothing, shelter including exclusion from home or abandonment, failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, failure to ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care-takers, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.

Visible signs of child neglect can be seen in the form of:

- Constant hunger
- Poor personal hygiene
- Constant tiredness
- Poor state of clothing
- Emaciation
- Untreated medical problems
- No social relationships
- Compulsive scavenging
- Destructive tendencies

### Long Term Effects of Abuse on Children...

The effects of abuse are wide ranging and usually long lasting, and can include:

- Low self esteem
- Problematic behaviours
- Educational problems, e.g. slow to develop speech
- Relationship difficulties
- Mental health problems
- Substance (drug and alcohol) abuse
- Self-harm including actual or attempted suicide
- Difficulty in parenting their own children
- Permanent disability
- Death as a result of the abuse (particularly if physical abuse or neglected)
- Failure to thrive and achieve the best of their ability