

# Information sheet for parents and carers

## **WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?**

### **Definitions of Safeguarding**

- Protecting children and young people from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children and young peoples health or development.
- Ensuring that children and young people are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Undertaking that role so as to enable those children and young people to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

## **SUPPORT WITH BULLYING**

Children and young people have a right to feel safe within their community and the right to feel safe from bullying.

Bullying is among one of the top concerns that parents have about their children's safety and wellbeing. It can be a significant issue for students, disproportionately affecting those who have a disability or special education need and those who are, or are perceived to be, lesbian, gay and bisexual.

Bullying makes lives a misery; it undermines their confidence and self-esteem and destroys their sense of security.

Bullying impacts on attendance and attainment at school; marginalises those groups who may be particular targets for bullies and can have a life-long impact on some young people's lives.

### **Recommended on-line support and advice:**

#### ***General***

Anti-bullying Alliance - [www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)

Beatbullying – [www.beatbullying.org](http://www.beatbullying.org)

Bulliesout - [www.bulliesout.com](http://www.bulliesout.com)

Bullying UK (part of Family Lives) [www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk)

Childline – [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

#### ***Cyber bullying***

Internet Matters - [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

Childnet International – [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

Cyberbullying.org – [www.cyberbullying.org](http://www.cyberbullying.org)

Get Safe Online - [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

#### ***Sexual & Physical Abuse***

Kidscape – [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)

NSPCC [www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/research/questions/sexual\\_bullying\\_wda70106.html](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/research/questions/sexual_bullying_wda70106.html)

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## **RACISM, HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION**

The school is committed to promoting and achieving equal opportunities for all students, parents, staff, governors and visitors. We believe that all people are of equal value and are entitled to equal opportunities irrespective of ability, disability, sex, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, social class, appearance or sexual orientation.

We are dedicated to providing a safe learning environment where everyone can feel safe and confident to work co-operatively together in an environment of mutual respect.

We will not tolerate any racist/homophobic or discriminative behaviour of any type. Any incidents will be dealt with severely, but showing sensitivity towards the offended party.

All incidents of perceived 'hate', including racist and homophobic behaviour are recorded using the schools internal recording system.

## **INTERNET SAFETY**

The virtual world affects all aspects of our lives, presenting excellent opportunities, but also new risks. For young people in particular a growing wealth of new technology, apps, and interfaces allows instant communication and entertainment. Many young people have support and friendship groups which exist solely online. It's important we ensure that children and young people are safeguarded in the virtual world as robustly as they are in the real one.

There has been a massive development in technology, faster than a lot of parents can keep up with. Young people spend time on social network sites and messaging friends (Xbox, Facebook, Twitter, Skype etc.). There are many good things about the internet but there are many risks.

### ***Parents should...***

- Monitor what their child is accessing on the internet.
- Know their child's passwords.
- Make sure their child's privacy settings are set to high and can only be seen by friends.
- Make sure their child does not give out personal information (i.e phone numbers, email address) to anyone they don't already know.

### ***Parents should not...***

- Ignore this issue, even "perfect" children can put themselves at risk unknowingly.

Unfortunately there are some really devious people out there waiting to take advantage of children – be a step ahead!

The CEOP's site has excellent resources and training for parents.

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Some additional resources that might be helpful:

- **Net Aware** - Run by the NSPCC and O2. This site has reviews and ratings of social media sites, apps and websites that will tell you about any risks they pose.
- **Digital Safety** - A guide to staying safe online - this will inform you about common safety issues, such as password security, social networking and scams to be aware of.

## **SCHOOL SECURITY**

- We cannot take a risk with our students, so we have procedures in place to help keep the site secure and safe.
- All staff wear a photo ID Badge and adult in the building without a school ID Badge will be challenged by staff and escorted to Reception.
- All visitors to the building during the school day have to sign in at Reception where they will be given a Visitors Badge to wear. (Reception is clearly signposted to avoid any confusion).
- The gates at each end of the school are locked during the day so the only entrance is the main one by Reception.

### ***What do you do if you have a concern about a child's welfare?***

If you have a serious concern over a child's welfare ..... do something, too many cases in the past have reported on people not doing anything as they thought someone else was.

### **You can:**

- Phone : 0118 908 8002
- Email us: triage@wokingham.gcsx.gov.uk
- After 5pm or on weekends and bank holidays phone 01344 786 543
- Thames valley police website - phone 0845 8505 505
- National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children website - 24 hour helpline 0808 800 5000
- ChildLine website - 24 hour helpline 0800 11 11

## **YOUNG CARERS/VULNERABLE STUDENTS**

It is the culture of Emmbrook School to acknowledge the diverse needs of the whole community, recognising that everyone is equal and must be treated as individuals. All barriers must be removed so that inclusive and supportive learning opportunities are developed to enable the full potential of everyone to be achieved.

There are effective systems to support students with medical needs so that they can attend school and engage in all activities.

### ***Medical Room***

- Minor injuries (sticking plasters on knee's)
- Administering medicines for short term and long term medical needs.
- To respond to more serious injuries and contacting parents and appropriate medical services.

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## **CHILD PROTECTION**

All staff receive training at least every two years to keep them fully up to date on current child protection procedures. In school there are two "Designated Officers for Safeguarding Children" (DOSCs), currently they are Mr Bhambra and Mr O'Neill.

### **Types of Abuse**

Abuse is not just sexual/physical as are often dramatized in the press. Of equal importance are the emotional abuse or neglect that some young people suffer, causing long term psychological affects.

We may become aware of an issue from:

Police – through police reports or if we receive a telephone call.

Social Care – when they have a referral made to them.

Student Disclosure – speaking to staff or a friend.

Staff Concern – Concern over students behaviour, appearance or well-being.

Other Student – student concerned about a friend or passes on what they have been told.

### **Process**

All staff know to pass concerns onto:

DOSC – who will then investigate further and make a decision as to whether there is a real risk to the student and further action required.

Further Action could be

- Call to Parent
- Referral to Joint Action Team
- Police
- No Further Action
- Or a combination of the above.

All cases are dealt with in a strictly confidential manner and on a 'need to know' basis. Parents will be kept informed as long as this does not put the child at risk.