

If a child discloses they might be subject to abuse:

**React calmly**

**Listen carefully** to the child, particularly what is said spontaneously.

**Do not** promise confidentiality. Explain to the child that you must pass on the information if you are worried about their safety.

**Do not** ask leading questions or make judgements. Clarify and check your concern if you feel that you are not sure, by using, for example, "tell, explain, describe or outline" but as soon as you believe that there might be a genuine issue, ask no further questions. This would compromise further enquiries.

Only trained investigators should question a child.

**Reassure** the child that they are doing the right thing.

**Record** carefully what the child says in their own words including how and when the account was given. Date, time and sign the school Concern Form (in the staff room).

Pass this on to the Designated Member of Staff for Safeguarding immediately or to one of the Safeguarding Team.

If you feel that a child may be at risk of harm but are not sure, then inform one of the Safeguarding team immediately. They will offer advice and take appropriate action. Child abuse can happen to any child regardless of their gender, culture, religion, social background ability or disability.

A copy of the schools Safeguarding policy is located in the school staff room.

**Types of harm:**

We all have a responsibility to keep children (under the age of 18) safe, both at home and in school. Harm is 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 activity. This can be a physical activity of no-physical, e.g. being made to look at an inappropriate image.

**Emotional** - when a child is made to feel frightened, worthless or unloved. It can be by shouting, using threats or making fun of someone.

**Neglect** – persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

**Female Genital Mutilation** – Procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non - medical reasons.

**Radicalisation** – refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies.

**Staff Conduct:**

If you are concerned about the conduct of a member of staff, following an observation or disclosure, the following actions must be taken:

- Immediately inform the Headteacher.
- In their absence, immediately inform the Deputy Headteacher.

**Keeping Yourself Safe**

- Be professional. Be careful how you interact with or speak to a child, the child may interpret it differently.
- Avoid physical contact with children unless you are preventing them from immediately harming themselves or others.
- Avoid being on your own with a child, always ensure that a door is open and that you are visible to others.
- It's best not to do anything for a child that he or she can do for himself or herself. Always tell someone if a child touches you or speaks to you inappropriately. Log down the incident, time and date it and pass it on to one of the Safeguarding Team.
- If you have concerns about the conduct of staff, it is your responsibility to inform the Headteacher.

Remember...if in doubt...ask.

### **Occasional Visitor Procedure**

- Visitors must sign in at the Main Office.
- Visitors will be given a pass, which must be worn at all times whilst on the site.
- Visitors should remain under the supervision of a designated member of staff whilst on site.
- All visitors must sign out at the main office and return their visitor pass before leaving the site

Visitors wishing to speak to a particular member of staff should telephone the school to make an appointment, wherever possible, to avoid disappointment.

If you are seeking an urgent appointment please report to the main office and we will arrange for you to see a member of staff on duty.

### **Regular Volunteers**

- Volunteers must sign in at the Main Office.
- Volunteers must sign out at the Main Office.

Our regular volunteers have a valid DBS certificate (formerly CRB) and wear an identity badge.

### **Safeguarding Statement:**

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. We expect all staff, volunteers and visitors to share this common commitment.

This leaflet contains information about our expectations of you whilst visiting the school. If you are unclear about anything in it please Speak to any of the contacts named within. Please keep the leaflet in a safe place so that you can read it again if you need to.

If you are concerned about the safety of any child in our school, you must report this to one of the designated Safeguarding Team.

If you are concerned about the conduct of a member of staff or volunteer in school you must contact the Designated Lead.

### **Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

0300 300 0117

**Police:** 101 or 999 **Social Care:** 019830 823434

### **Our Safeguarding Team includes:**

DSL: Stephanie Praetig, Headteacher  
Deputy DSL: Sam Smith, Kirsty Thomas, Louise Stanton, Rachael Groves, Jane Gilbraith, Tracy Hayman (Crew Club)



# **Safeguarding Guide**

for

## **School Visitors**

and

## **Volunteers**

[www.cowesprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.cowesprimaryschool.co.uk)

01983 293261