

MATRAVERS SCHOOL



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PROCEDURES

September 2020

An information leaflet for contractors, volunteers and visitors to the school

Matravers School follows the child protection procedures set out by the Wiltshire Local Safeguarding Children Board and available at www.wiltshirescb.org.uk

We take into account of guidance issued by the Department for Education in Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2020.

If you have any queries regarding the information contained in this leaflet, or require further clarification of any points, please do not hesitate to contact the DSL or the Deputy DSL.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr Phillips
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Davies
Designated Safeguarding Governor: Mr Guy Davies

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PROCEDURES

Children and Young people have a fundamental right to be protected from harm. Families have a right to expect schools to provide a safe and secure environment. All schools have a legal duty to work with other agencies, for example social services and the police, to safe guard children's welfare.

Aim of this leaflet

To ensure that all contractors and visitors are aware of and undertake their responsibility to promote equal opportunities, tackle bullying and help protect students from significant harm.

Guidelines for all contractors and visitors

As a visitor to our school, either as a contractor, supply teacher or someone who has come to work with our children in any other capacity, it is important that you are aware of our Child Protection procedures.

- Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr T Phillips. The Deputy (DDSL) is Mrs A L Davies. If you cannot locate these people, you can refer any concerns to Mrs D Thorne, Mrs N Hill or any member of the Senior Leadership Team, via Main Reception.
- If there is any reason to suspect that a student has suffered bullying or discrimination, or is likely to suffer significant harm, you must inform the DSL as above immediately, as detailed above.

What is Discrimination?

Discrimination occurs when people receive less favourable treatment on any grounds which cannot be justified. This covers race, ethnic or national origin, language, religion or belief, gender and gender reassignment, sexual orientation, disability, responsibility for other dependants, social class or where the person lives.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is a wilful, conscious attack on the self-esteem or the person of an individual student. It includes teasing, name-calling, jibes, silence/exclusion from the social circle, emphasising differences, threatening behaviour, racial/sexual harassment, extortion and physical attack. Bullying may vary in its severity, frequency and in the numbers of people involved.

What is Upskirting?

'Upskirting' 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 the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is now a criminal offence. We have a strict 'zero use of mobile phones' in place, as explained in our behaviour for learning policy.

What is Abuse?

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to harm or injury. It commonly occurs within a relationship of trust or responsibility and is an abuse of power or a breach of trust. Abuse can happen to any child regardless of their age, gender, race or ability.

There are four categories of abuse; physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. Child sexual exploitation (CSE), radicalisation and female genital mutilation (FGM) are also types of abuse which we have a duty to safeguard against.

Further details of key signs to look out for can be found on the following page.

Possible Signs of abuse

<p>Signs of physical abuse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with frequent injuries; • Children with unexplained or unusual fractures or broken bones; and • Children with unexplained: bruises or cuts; burns or scalds; or bite marks 	<p>Signs of emotional abuse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children who are excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious about doing something wrong; • Parents or carers blaming their problems on their child; and • Parents or carers who humiliate their child, for example, by name-calling or making negative comparisons.
<p>Signs of sexual abuse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children who display knowledge or interest in sexual acts inappropriate to their age; • Children who use sexual language or have sexual knowledge that you wouldn't expect them to have; • Children who ask others to behave sexually or play sexual games; and • Children with physical sexual health problems, including soreness in the genital and anal areas, sexually transmitted infections or underage pregnancy. 	<p>Signs of neglect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children who are living in a home that is indisputably dirty or unsafe; • Children who are left hungry or dirty; • Children who are left without adequate clothing, e.g. not having a winter coat; • Children who are living in dangerous conditions; • Children who are often angry, aggressive or self-harm; • Children who fail to receive basic health care; and • Parents who fail to seek medical treatment when their children are ill or are injured.
<p>Signs of CSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions; • Children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends; • Children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant; • Children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being; • Children who misuse drugs and alcohol; • Children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and • Children who regularly miss school or education or don't take part in education. 	<p>Signs of radicalisation: Recognising Extremism - early indicators may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing sympathy for extremist causes • Glorifying violence • Evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature • Advocating messages similar to illegal organisations • Out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (but there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent.)
<p>Signs of FGM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The child may also talk about a special procedure/ceremony that is going to take place or a special occasion to 'become a woman'. • Prolonged absence from school or other activities with noticeable behaviour change on return, possibly with bladder or menstrual problems; • Difficulty walking, sitting or standing, and look uncomfortable; spend longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet • May complain about pain between their legs, or talk of something somebody did to them that they are not allowed to talk about. 	

Disclosure of abuse by a child

If a student 'discloses' information about significant harm you should:

- Listen and ask the minimum questions necessary
- Tell the student that you need to inform someone else. Absolute confidentiality is impossible in these circumstances and you should never agree to keep a promise of secrecy.
- Make accurate notes of exactly what was said by the student and pass these to the DSL immediately.
- Do not question a child; try to limit your involvement to listening. A child can be interviewed only once.

It is important to remember that it is not your responsibility to investigate suspected cases of abuse, only to report them to a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Please see the flow chart overleaf.

COVID-19 UPDATE: If you are working remotely with a young person please ensure you are aware of the school's ESafety policy and remote education guidance. Our duty of care extends beyond the school grounds and school hours.

What to do if you are worried a child is being abused or neglected

for staff, volunteers and visitors in all agencies and settings



Be alert to signs of abuse and question unusual behaviour
If you have concerns about a child's welfare...

Where a child also discloses abuse or neglect:

- Listen; take their allegation seriously; reassure that you will take action to keep them safe
- Inform them what you are going to do next
- Do not promise confidentiality
- Do not question further or approach/inform the alleged abuser

Report concerns to the Designated/Named Safeguarding Lead or their deputy:

Mr T Phillips (DSL) or Mrs A L Davies (DDSL)

The Designated/Named Safeguarding Lead will:

- consider further actions required, including consultation with MASH (number below)
- record in writing the discussions, decisions and reasons for decisions.

In exceptional circumstances or in the absence of a Safeguarding Lead you may contact MASH directly.

If a referral is not required:

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will oversee relevant action, eg pastoral support, and/or early help assessment and monitor locally.

If concerns continue

The Designated/Named Safeguarding Lead (or staff) will contact MASH to make a referral

Additional/unmet needs – the Designated Safeguarding Lead will consult with relevant agencies and undertake an Early Help CAF and Team around the Child meetings.

- **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): 0300 456 0108**
- **Out of Hours Emergency Duty Service: 0300 456 0100** (5.00pm to 9.00am weekdays, 4.00pm Friday to 9.00am Monday)
- If the child is in **immediate risk**, dial **999** and ask for police assistance

MASH will:

1. Acknowledge receipt of referral
2. Decide on next course of action (within 1 working day)
3. Provide feedback decision to referrer (e.g. further assessment including: strategy discussion/child protection enquiries; no further action required for children's social care and early help assessment/CAF recommended; referral to other agency for service provision).

This flowchart is intended for use as a brief guide. Refer to the DfE Guidance [What to do if you are worried a child is being abused](#) for more information, definitions and possible indicators of abuse (including child sexual exploitation).