



SCARCLIFFE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Scarcliffe Primary School

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Scarcliffe

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School Newsletter

Tuesday 17th September 2024

Safeguarding Newsletter

It is everyone's responsibility!

I have no doubt you will agree, keeping your children safe should always be our first priority – and it is. I thought it would be helpful to outline some useful information in relation to safeguarding at Scarcliffe Primary School.

Who is responsible for Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility! Everyone who comes in to contact with children has a role to play. When carrying out our safeguarding duties, we always consider what is in the best interests of the child.

Every school has to have a designated safeguarding lead – at Scarcliffe, this is **Mr Marsh**. **Mrs Swift** is our deputy designated safeguarding lead. We also have a link safeguarding governor – this is **Michelle Reid** (aka Felicity's mum).

Types of Abuse

At school, all staff have to be aware of, and have training about, the four main categories of abuse:

- Neglect
- Physical abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse

Safeguarding training ensures staff understand that we have to maintain the attitude that 'it could happen here'. As a result, we have to be professionally curious and may have to liaise with parents and carers if we have concerns. The safeguarding leads also have a duty to escalate concerns to Starting Point (or in some cases, the Police) should the concerns meet particular thresholds.

Sharing and Storing Information

The school has a duty to share information when there are any safeguarding concerns. There is also a duty to keep records which relate to safeguarding work by the school, or partner agencies. These are kept securely, kept apart from the main pupil record and are only accessible to key members of staff. Copies of these records will be securely sent to any education provider to which the child transfers and a confirmation of receipt will be obtained.

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass has been established to help schools provide in-school support to children who have been present at, exposed to or involved in any domestic abuse incident. This is part of an initiative called Stopping Domestic Abuse Together (SDAT).

As part of the Operation Encompass procedure, school receives a confidential email from the Police after a child or young

person has been witness to, or involved in, any reported domestic abuse incident

Teaching children about Safeguarding

We think it is crucial to teach children how to stay safe and clearly this is best done when lessons come from school and home! We teach safeguarding in a number of ways, including:

- Teaching about online safety – including weekly lessons through Project Evolve.
- A school topic called 'Healthy Bodies; Healthy Minds'.
- Assemblies.
- Our PSHE and RSE curriculum.
- Engaging with the NSPCC to deliver PANTS sessions and Speak Out; Stay Safe lessons.
- By having clear rules and messages in school – particularly around kind hands and 'no means no'.
- We also teach children from an early age that they should ask for consent before giving someone a hug.
- Teaching children about age-appropriate local or national safeguarding issues that might impact on them – such as teaching Year 6 children about the dangers of sexting prior to starting secondary school.

We have clear systems for children to report concerns to staff or their peers. All classes have Bubble Time (where children can request private 1:1 time with a member of staff) and worry boxes which are monitored by our trained Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

Working with Us!

We fully understand that children can't always be protected from harm. If something happens out of school – such as your child getting injured or them witnessing something distressing – please inform us. This can be done by telephone, email, face-to-face or by Class Dojo. It is always better to hear a full explanation from parents/carers rather than being told by the child.

In the event that we ever need to make a referral for support from external partners, we will try to explain this to parents/carers and will always act in what we deem to be the best interests of our pupils.

Attendance and Collections

We know children are safe when they are at school. If they don't arrive at school and we don't know why, this causes us some concern.

Please make sure that any pupil absences are reported to the school office – either via Dojo or by telephone. We will pick messages up that are left on the answer machine. Please let Ms. Rich know rather than your child's class teacher. Teachers don't always have the chance to check their messages before the children arrive.

If something happens which means a child will be picked up by someone different – either they are going home with a friend or you have arranged for someone different to collect them – be sure to let us know. Again, these messages should be sent to the school office.

Useful Safeguarding Acronyms

- **DSL** – Designated safeguarding lead
- **KCSiE** – Keeping Children Safe in Education
- **NSPCC** – National Society for the prevention of cruelty to children.
- **SDAT** – Stopping Domestic Abuse Together
- **ACEs** – Adverse childhood experiences.

What if you think a child is at risk?

If you suspect a child is being abused or is in danger of being abused, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead, or any member of staff.

All incidents will be handled with care and sensitivity. It may sometimes be necessary to involve other agencies.

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999.