



Safeguarding Information for Parents/Carers

This is a parent and carer summary of our Safeguarding Policy. A copy of the full policy can be found on the website, or requested from the School Office. Large print or audio versions are also available on request if required.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead for Abbey School and Nursery is Miss Anna Payne. The Deputy Designated Persons are Miss Sophie Hunt and Miss Bryony Dorrans. Our Online Safety Lead is Mrs Kirsten Gibbs.

If you are worried about your own, or another child, you can contact these members of staff via the school office at any time.

Principles

- Children have a right to be safe to be listened to, valued and respected.
- Parents and Carers have a right to be informed of any concerns regarding their child.
- Children are best protected when parents work in partnership with school and nursery.
- All staff and volunteers are given appropriate training and support and are subject to rigorous recruitment checks.

Early Help – What is it?

During your child's time at Abbey School and Nursery, staff will work in partnership with you to provide pastoral care and support their well-being. We understand that families need different levels of support at varying times and this can be impacted by life events. For example, we are able to offer specific support for children and families who have suffered a bereavement or family changes.

At times, children and their families may benefit from additional support in which case, staff may suggest an Early Help referral. This is a voluntary and collaborative process for families and is designed to bring together different agencies to provide optimised support and a holistic approach.

Child Protection

School and Nursery staff have a crucial role to notice indicators of possible abuse (including sexual, physical, emotional) and neglect. Staff are legally required to report such concerns to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Unless they believe that a child will be put at risk of further harm, they would normally inform you of their decision to do so and seek consent as appropriate, for the referral.

If staff are concerned about an immediate and serious risk, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), they will contact the police.

Online Safety

We promote online safety through our PSHE and Computing curriculum. KS2 pupils and parents sign an 'acceptable use policy,' which outlines our rules and expectations of using technology and internet at school. Infant and Nursery pupils are always closely supervised and guided when using technology and internet.

We are always happy to support parents/carers with online safety at home. Please get in touch if you would appreciate additional support – for example, setting up parent controls on devices). The following websites are useful sources of support for parents/carers:

- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
- <https://info.nationalonlinesafety.com/parentkind>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

A child friendly version of our e-safety policy and the full copy of the policy can be found on the website, or are available from the school office by request.

Safer Recruitment Procedures and Staff Development

Abbey School and Nursery follow statutory Safer Recruitment procedures and all staff and volunteers are subject to robust checks. All staff and volunteers are DBS checked and references received before beginning employment. Visitors to the school who do not hold a DBS check are supervised at all times.

Designated and deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL and dDSLs) have formal Level 3 Safeguarding training every 2 years. All other staff complete formal safeguarding training every 3 years. Training is refreshed on at least an annual basis for all staff.

In the case where a child makes an allegation against an adult working in the school, the Head Teacher (or DSL) would be immediately informed and would contact and be guided by the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

Peer-on-Peer Abuse

Children are encouraged to talk to adults both in and out of school, if anything is worrying them or making them feel unsafe. Positive and respectful relationships between pupils are promoted through our PSHE curriculum and school values. We understand that children will make mistakes and need support to build respectful relationships and caring friendships with peers.

Physical and emotional abuse of children by other children will be dealt with using our anti-bullying and behaviour policies. Parents will be kept informed of incidents and all incidents are recorded inline with our safeguarding procedures. Concerns about sexual abuse will usually be referred to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and in extreme instances, may also be reported to the police. We recognise that sexualised behaviour in children is often an indicator of sexual abuse and will treat both children affected as victims in need of care and safeguarding.