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SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

November 2022

Our Vision

For the children of Park View to become positive, responsible, caring and successful citizens well equipped to overcome the challenges of an ever-changing world.

Our Aim

To enable the children to fulfill our vision by providing inspirational education in a nurturing environment where all can achieve their goals and show genuine respect for themselves and for others.

Our Values

- Friendship
- Ambition
- Respect

The Park View Code

We are proud of our school and always do our best to:

- treat each other with kindness and respect
- learn and let others learn
- care for our school and everything in it
- keep ourselves and others safe
- tell the truth and take responsibility for our actions

UNICEF Rights of the Child

Park View is a UNICEF Rights Respecting school and article 19 of the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** (UNCRC) states:

‘Every child has the right to protection from violence, abuse and neglect.’



Nothing is more important to us than the safety and welfare of the children at Park View. We work hard to make sure that our children stay safe and do not come to any harm. We work closely with parents and carers and a range of other professionals, like the School Nurse and Children's Services to make sure that we achieve this.

What is 'safeguarding'?

- protecting children from harm (from abuse and neglect)
- making sure children are healthy and develop normally
- making sure that children grow up in safe and effective care
- taking action to make sure all children to have the best chances for a happy and healthy life in the future

How is this linked with school?

All staff at Park View (and in all schools in the UK) have a **legal duty of care** to make sure that all children are safe in school and that any concerns about a child's well-being is followed up appropriately. **This is the law.**

How does this work?

All staff members in school are responsible for safeguarding **all** children. The school has policies and procedures in place that staff must follow to keep children safe, for example:

- Behaviour and Anti-Bullying
- E-Safety
- Safeguarding and Child Protection

Staff members must follow these policies and other policies. These are part of the legal duties of adults who work in schools.

Every school has a staff member who is trained to be responsible for dealing with safeguarding and child protection issues. They are the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**.

At Park View, **Miss Lewis** is this person. We have **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL)**: Mrs Brotherton, Mrs Rowbotham, Ms Navin and Mr Silver. However the government document **Keeping Children Safe in Education** (which is updated every year), clearly states that any staff member working in a school can make referrals to Children's Services should they have cause for concern.

What is abuse and neglect?

Abuse: Harming a child, not looking after a child well enough or not stopping a child from being harmed.

Physical Abuse: Hitting, beating, smacking, shaking, throwing, poisoning, biting, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or other kinds of ways of hurting a child's body. This also includes pretending that a child is ill or causing a child to become ill.

Emotional Abuse: Constantly treating a child in a negative way which then effects child's emotional development and makes the child feel bad about himself/herself or worthless or unloved; controlling them so that they cannot express their views or overprotecting them; 'making fun' of what they say or how they speak; serious bullying or causing a child to feel frightened or in danger.

Sexual Abuse: Involves forcing or tricking a child into taking part in any level of physical sexual activity. It includes non-contact sexual activity for example, making a child looking sexual images or watching them being taken; watching sexual activities; encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. Young people may be tricked into believing they're in a loving relationship.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It's also known as female circumcision, cutting or 'sunna'. **FGM is illegal in the UK.** If staff suspect that a child has been subject to FGM then they are legally bound to report this directly to the police.

Neglect: Consistently failing to meet a child's needs. For example not giving the child enough food, shelter, warmth, health care and hygiene. This includes not providing the right clothing for cold weather or consistently not giving a child his/her packed lunch. Neglect can also mean not showing a child enough care so that his/her emotional development is affected. Neglect can occur in pregnancy as a result of drug or alcohol abuse by the mother.

Radicalisation: When a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. Children and young people from any background, culture, race or religion can be at risk of radicalisation. Children and young people who are vulnerable (for example have a learning difficulty, or mental health issues or are already suffering from other forms of abuse) are vulnerable to being groomed for radicalisation.

What happens if an adult in school has a welfare or child protection concern?

Staff will speak to Miss Lewis, Mrs Brotherton or one of the other staff members who are trained in dealing with child protection and employed to carry out these duties autonomously . Usually, the person dealing with the concern will contact the child's parents/carers and invite them for a meeting to discuss the concerns. Mostly, these are supportive conversations and help is offered to parents/carers if they are struggling with any circumstances that might be affecting their child. The adult leading the meeting will give the parent/carer advice and will explain the next steps. If a parent/carer cannot be contacted or refuses to engage in a conversation with staff, then staff will contact Children's Services for advice.

Will the school contact Social Services?

Sometimes the school has to make a referral to Children's Services (Manchester Children's Services). This is part of a **school's legal duty to safeguard the children in their care.**

In most cases, if a referral has to be made parents are informed that this is the case

Will the school contact Social Services without telling a parent/carer?

If staff members in a school have any reason to think that a child is at risk of immediate harm, for example the child tells a staff member that he/she has been hit or beaten, then they **must** make a referral to Manchester Children's Services **right away**. This means that parents/carers would not know about a referral before hand. **This is part of a school's legal duty.**

If parents/carers cannot be contacted within a reasonable time frame or if they refuse to engage with school, staff will contact Children's Services for advice.

What happens next?

A Social Worker will decide if the school must inform parents about the referral or not. Usually Social Workers advise schools to inform parents about a referral but if he/she thinks it better to see the child first then they will advise schools not to share information at this stage. The Social Worker will then either visit the child in school or at home and will then explain the concerns to the adult in charge of the child. He/she may ask to speak to the child in the home so that an assessment can be made.

The Social Worker will then decide the next steps, which is usually for the parent/carer to attend a meeting to discuss the concerns. The next steps could be:

- Early Help Intervention (which involves the parent(s)/carers and the child).
- Child in Need/Family in Need meeting (which involves the parent(s)/carers and the child/children).
- Child Protection Plan (this takes into account the parent and child's views).

The purpose of all of the above is for Children's Services staff to work **with** families. They do not wish to split families up but to work with parents/carers to help keep families together and to keep children safe.

Social Workers have **legal guidelines** to work within and will contact other services to find out information for example, they may contact the school nurse or the police if necessary.



Will all staff in school be told if a referral has been made?

No, information about child protection is kept confidential and only shared with other staff members in school on a 'need to know basis'.

How does a referral affect the relationship between home and school?

A referral should not affect the relationship between home and school as the school acts in the best interests of the child. Schools have a **legal duty** to raise and report concerns if they have reason to believe that a child may be at risk. It is best for families and schools to keep the channels of communication open and for parents/carers not worry the child in any way.

What should I do if I think that a child is being abused?

If you are concerned about a child in school or in your community you can make an anonymous referral via the NSPCC:

- Call on 0808 800 5000

- Text 88858
- Email: helpdesk@nspcc.org.uk

You can find out more at:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse/>

<https://www.gov.uk/report-child-abuse>

<https://www.gov.uk/report-child-abuse-to-local-council>

