Safeguarding for Volunteers & Visitors

Who to speak to if you are concerned about a child at St Peter's School

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Mrs Crowther: Head Teacher / DSL
Miss Wilkinson: Deputy Head / Back up DSL
Mrs Smith: Learning Mentor / Back up DSL
Mr Vanboyd: Emotional Literacy Support Assistant / Back up DSL

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Everyone has a responsibility to make sure children in St Peter's School community are safe as 'Every Child of God Matters'.
Please do not leave without telling someone your concerns or decide to do nothing.

Allegations

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Any allegations should be reported immediately to the Head Teacher.
If concerns are about the Head Teacher, then contact Carol Pike our Chair of Governors.

Worried about a child?

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Abuse (physical, sexual, emotional) or neglect can have a damaging effect on a child's health, education, attainment and emotional wellbeing.
Changes in a child's behaviour may not necessarily indicate a child is suffering abuse or neglect.
However, if whilst working with a child you become concerned, please report these concerns to the class teacher or DSL immediately.

Disclosures of abuse by a child

Whilst this can be an alarming situation, it is important that you know what to do in such an eventuality.

- Stay calm and controlled, listen to what is said without showing shock or disbelief.
- Accept what is being said.
- Allow the child to talk freely, listen rather than direct by asking questions.
- Reassure but do not make promises you can not keep.
- Explain that you will talk to their Head Teacher so that they can help.
- Do not ask leading questions or interrogate.
- Stress that talking was the right thing to do.
- Record details immediately and attempt to use the exact words or phrases used by the child, sign and date this.
- Immediately report your concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- It is important to remember that children's details must remain confidential and within school.

Golden Rules:

- Provide a good example and be a positive role model.
- Treat all children equally, never build a special relationship or favour children.
- Do not photograph children (unless permission has been sought)
- Do not receive or give gifts unless arranged through school.
- Only touch children for professional reasons and when this is necessary and appropriate for the child's well-being and safety.
- Never engage online with children and do not give out contact details.
- Treat everyone with respect.
- Respect a child's right to personal privacy.
- Do not pay inappropriate comments or have inappropriate banter with children.
- Do not jump to conclusions without checking facts.
- Do not believe it could never happen here! IT COULD!

Volunteer / Visitor Responsibilities:

Everyone who comes into contact with children, whether paid or voluntary are responsible for their own actions and behaviour. You should avoid any contact which would lead any reasonable person to question your motive or intention. We all have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our children.