



Term 1, Issue 8

October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first Safeguarding Newsletter of the new academic year. We hope you find this information useful.

Safeguarding relates to many areas of life at Ark Castledown including children's physical health and safety, mental health issues, attendance, managing medical conditions, internet safety, substance misuse, bullying, the dangers of radicalisation, child sexual exploitation, gang culture, FGM, neglect, domestic violence, forced marriages, sex and relationships education, British Values and road safety among other issues.

At Ark Castledown, we feel it is really important to work with our parents/carers and with the high quality agencies that support schools and young people so that we can offer a safe environment that allows children to be aware of the risks they may face and how to respond to them safely. We hope that our school curriculum gives children opportunities to explore many of these issues in a safe situation - through PSHE, SRE, Circle Time, dedicated topic time and as key learning points arise in subjects such as science so that we can equip our children with the knowledge, understanding and the right tools to make safe choices.

Best wishes
Patricia Rowland,

WHO'S WHO

Designated Safeguarding Team



Mrs Rowland
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Davis
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Miss Stewart
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mr Rankin
Designated
Safeguarding Lead

What is the role of the DSL

The Designated Safeguarding Lead has a crucial role in taking lead responsibility for child protection issues in school. DSL's must be senior members of the School's Leadership Team, and at Ark Castledown we have 4 DSL's forming a team with Mrs Rowland as the Lead in position. A DSL is always available during school hours for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns. On most days there is a DSL in school from 8.00 am to 5.00pm. DSLs have their training updated every two years with additional training and conferences in between. The DSL has many responsibilities including working with staff and agencies involved in safeguarding children, working with parents and families, giving advice to staff, training staff, managing referrals from staff and investigating concerns passing them onto the correct body as necessary, managing the records of safeguarding and Child Protection concerns, keeping own knowledge up to date etc.



Cyber Bullying



Cyber bullying is any form of bullying which takes place online or through smartphones and tablets - adults and children can be victims of this form of bullying, so we must be vigilant. The impact of this bullying can be wide reaching from feeling frightened and intimidated, being the victim of fake gossip or rumours, having photos or videos posted about you, being on the receiving end of language that causes offense and an argument, threatening behaviour etc. In addition, people with malicious intent can use the internet for grooming of young and vulnerable people, fraud, stalking, exclusion, blackmail etc. The internet and social media can be fun and can bring many educational and personal benefits but adult and child alike we must protect ourselves from misuse. For more information go to www.bullying.co.uk.

Useful Acronyms & Vocabulary about Safeguarding

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead

CP: Child Protection

LADO: Local Authority LADO Designated Officer who deals with position of trust safeguarding issues
DBS: Disclosure & Barring
DBS Service used to make safe recruitment decisions

SPOA: Single Point of Advice

EH: Early Help support for families, usually a key worker is assigned to support families in challenging circumstances. "Providing Early Help support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years".

FGM: Female Genital Mutilation: Female genital mutilation is a procedure where the female genitals are deliberately cut, injured or changed.

CEOP: Child Exploitation CEOP and Online Protection centre (tackling child sex abuse and providing advice)

Do you know what your child is doing online? Are you routinely talking to your child and checking what internet sites they are accessing? It is very important to monitor and teach your child some key internet safety rules...

Online Safety



- 1) Don't post any personal information online – like your address, email address or mobile number.
- 2) Think carefully before posting pictures or videos of yourself. Once you've put a picture of yourself online most people can see it— is it a photo you would want everyone to see?
- 3) Keep your privacy settings as high as possible.
- 4) Never give out your passwords (except to your parents if they want to check your accounts to keep you safe).

- 5) Don't befriend people you don't know.
- 6) Don't meet up with people you've met online. Speak to your parent or carer about people suggesting you do.
- 7) Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are - adults sometimes pretend to be children to make friends with you online.
- 8) Think carefully about what you say before you post something online.



- 9) Respect other people's views, even if you don't agree with someone else's views doesn't mean you need to be rude.
- 10) Use parental safety software/apps to block inappropriate internet use and monitor your children's online activity.
- 11) Ensure that the online games your child wants to play are appropriate to their age.
- 12) If you see something online that makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried: leave the website and tell a trusted adult immediately.

SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

Please remember, if you have any safeguarding concerns, our team at school will be happy to listen and advise you. If you are concerned about a child/children outside of school call 101 and speak to the Police, or call SPOA 01323 464222.



Keeping You Safe at Ark Castledown