



Safeguarding and Child Protection at St George's Primary



May 2023 Newsletter

What is Safeguarding?

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 defines safeguarding as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

At St George's the safety of the children is our top priority. We are constantly refreshing and re-viewing our knowledge and procedures in regards to safeguarding. Each week, on a weekly communication sheet for staff, we have safeguarding reminders and updates. All new staff have safeguarding training when they start at St George's and all current staff have renewed training annually. Safeguarding updates are also shared in weekly staff briefings. All volunteers and visitors to the school are advised on safeguarding via our Visitor and Volunteer Safeguarding leaflet which is given to everyone who visits the school.

Child Friendly Safeguarding Policy

At St George's we want the children to know what to do if they are feeling worried and give them the confidence to talk to a trusted adult. We worked with a group of children to devise a Child Friendly Safeguarding Policy. The policy is attached to this week's newsletter. The policy is displayed in all classrooms and regularly discussed with the children. If you have any questions or suggestions for our Child Friendly Safeguarding Policy please don't hesitate to contact us.

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What are the signs of child abuse? NSPCC

The signs of child abuse aren't always obvious, and a child might not feel able to tell anyone what's happening to them. Sometimes, children don't even realise that what's happening to them is abuse. There are different types of child abuse and the signs that a child is being abused may depend on the type. For example, the signs that a child is being neglected may be different from the signs that a child is being abused sexually.

Common signs

Some common signs that there may be something concerning happening in a child's life include:

- ☐ unexplained changes in behaviour or personality
- ☐ becoming withdrawn
- ☐ seeming anxious
- ☐ becoming uncharacteristically aggressive
- ☐ lacks social skills and has few friends, if any
- ☐ poor bond or relationship with a parent
- ☐ knowledge of adult issues inappropriate for their age
- ☐ running away or going missing
- ☐ always choosing to wear clothes which cover their body

These signs don't necessarily mean that a child is being abused, there could be other things happening in their life which are affecting their behaviour – but we can help you to assess the situation. You may also notice some concerning behaviour from adults who you know have children in their care, which makes you concerned for the child/ children's safety and wellbeing.

If you have any concerns about the safety and/or welfare of a child of young person, telephone Children's Social Care on 0300 123 6720. You could also contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team by phone or by coming into school. If it outside the school please do not wait if you have concerns. Please ring Children's Social Care or the police if appropriate.

Childline

If you're worried about your child's mental health, please do talk to somebody in school such as their class teacher or a member of SLT. There is also some really useful information on the Childline website.

Along with tips and ideas to support mental health, Childline offers a free and confidential service for young people under 18. Children can [talk to a trained counsellor](#) over the phone, online via [1-2-1 chat](#) or via [email](#) about anything that's worrying them, 24 hours a day.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

0800 1111

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME