

Gentleshaw Primary Academy

Safeguarding Update Autumn 2023



WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

The following members of staff are Designated Safeguarding Leads for Gentleshaw Primary Academy:

- Miss Saunders (DSL)
- Mrs Armiger
- Mrs Goodsir

They can be contacted via the school office, or by telephone.

Safeguarding Governor:
Mrs S Francis

You can read our Child Protection & Safeguarding policy by clicking [here](#).

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Gentleshaw, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children. Protecting our pupils is everyone's responsibility and our top priority. Anyone who comes in to contact with children and their families has a role to play.

We recognise the role that all staff and governors have in protecting our pupils from harm, and that the child's welfare is our paramount concern. We ensure that anyone, paid or voluntary, who seeks to work in our school is safe to do so.

Our school takes pride in offering a safe, nurturing, and positive environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child free from discrimination or bullying where children can learn and develop happily.

By sharing these newsletters with you, we hope to give you an insight to our policies and procedures that are so carefully thought out to protect your children, as well as sharing helpful tips to support you in keeping our children safe.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023

Keeping Children Safe in Education is a statutory Department for Education document, which all schools must follow when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It covers many aspects of safeguarding including different forms of abuse, early help processes, safe recruitment, how concerns must be reported and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Leads.

[Click here](#) for the full document.

Online Safety

At Gentleshaw we are committed to ensuring all pupils become safe and responsible users of technology. It is essential that we work in partnership with parents to achieve this goal. On our website you can find information and useful websites to support you in keeping your child safe online.

Did you know?

All social networking platforms and apps have minimum age limits. Some social networks use technologies that might not be appropriate for some ages.

What can I do to keep my child safe?

1. **Think about online routines:** Have a conversation with your child about online safety and agree some rules to help keep them safe.
2. **Have a conversation about online pressures and cyberbullying:** Remember to talk to your child about what they are doing online and who they are talking to. Check in with them regularly and remind them they can talk to you or another trusted adult, like a teacher.
3. **Set up devices safely:** Make sure you set devices up with your child, exploring any safety features. Remember to use parental controls!
4. **Keep children safe on conferencing apps:** Supervise your child when they use these apps; remind your child not to share chat links or passwords on social media; explore any security features like how to report and block; talk to your child about what they are sharing.

Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board Child Safety Campaigns

Protect your little bundle

Unintentional injuries in and around the home are a leading preventable cause of death and emergency hospital admissions for children, particularly those under 5 years.

[Click here](#) to read the Child Safety Booklet designed to raise awareness of potential hazards such as safe sleeping, blind cord and car seat safety and much more. It brings together advice from local and national campaigns.



Child abuse in any form can take place anywhere.

Child abuse can happen to any child or young person, no matter what their sex, age or background is.

The signs aren't always clear, and can change depending on the type of abuse:

- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- emotional abuse
- neglect

For more information [click here](#)

Other Contacts

If you think a child could be at risk of harm, you should report it to one of the following:

Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support (SCAS)

0300 111 8007

8.30am – 5.00pm Monday to Thursday

8.30am- 4.30pm Friday

or

EDS (out of hours) Tel No. 0345 604 2886

Or email: eds.team.manager@staffordshire.gov.uk

Non-emergency – call Staffordshire Police on 101

Any member of the public can call and it is your choice if you wish to remain anonymous.

If a child is in risk of immediate harm always call 999

For more information visit the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board's website by clicking [here](#)

BE SMART ONLINE



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SAFE

Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.



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MEET

Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk

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A

ACCEPTING

Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.



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RELIABLE

You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.



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TELL

Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline – 0800 11 11 or www.childline.org.uk



BE SMART WITH A HEART

Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.



Operation Encompass is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and all police forces.

“ Children who live in homes where there is domestic abuse, or who experience domestic abuse in their own teenage relationships, can be negatively impacted by this experience. ”

“ We have ensured that a member of our staff, (Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key Adult, has been trained about Operation Encompass procedures. This allows us to use the information that has been confidentially shared with us by the police, to understand how a child may be impacted by domestic abuse and to then offer support to the child/ren in our care. ”

“ This information means that we can understand a child’s behaviour and support that child in whatever way they may need or want. ”

“ Children who experience domestic abuse are recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right¹. ”

“ Operation Encompass means that our school will be told, prior to the start of the next school day, when police have attended an incident of domestic abuse where there is a child or young person who attends our school who is related to any of those involved in the incident. ”

“ We are keen to offer the very best support possible to all our pupils and we believe that being part of Operation Encompass helps us to do this. ”

¹ Domestic Abuse Act 2021