



## Merdon Junior School Child Protection Policy 2025 Summary for Parents

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### **What is the Child Protection Policy?**

The policy sets out how the school safeguards children from harm, including abuse and neglect. It ensures every child at Merdon Junior School learns in a safe, supportive environment where they feel secure and listened to. The school takes its legal duty seriously to protect children and promote their well-being.

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### **Key Points for Parents**

#### **Our Commitment to Safety**

- **Your child's safety is our top priority.** The school has clear procedures to identify and respond to any concerns about a child's welfare.
- All staff and volunteers are trained regularly to recognise signs of abuse or neglect and understand how to respond appropriately.
- We promote an open culture where children feel safe to talk about their worries.

#### **What We Mean by Abuse**

- Abuse can be physical, emotional, sexual, or neglect. It can also include witnessing domestic abuse.
- Harm can come from adults or other children.

#### **The Role of Staff**

- Every adult in school is responsible for protecting children and must report concerns to designated safeguarding leads (DSLs).
- The DSL at Merdon Junior School is the Headteacher, Mr. Tom Johnston, supported by deputies. They lead on safeguarding matters and liaise with external agencies if needed.

#### **Working with Families**

- We aim to work openly with parents and carers but will contact social care or the police without informing parents if it is in the child's best interest and safety is at risk.

#### **Responding to Concerns**

- If a child tells a member of staff about abuse, the staff member will listen carefully, reassure the child, and tell the DSL immediately.
- The school will follow clear procedures to ensure the child gets the support they need.
- Parents will usually be informed unless this could put the child at further risk.



## Keeping Children Safe Online

- The school teaches children how to stay safe online and monitors internet use on school devices to protect children from harmful content or contact.

## Dealing with Concerns about Staff

- Any concerns or allegations about adults working in school are handled seriously and promptly according to strict procedures to ensure children's safety.

## Child-on-Child Abuse

- The school has a zero-tolerance approach to any sexual violence or harassment between children and takes all reports seriously.
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## How You Can Help

- Encourage your child to speak openly about their experiences and feelings.
  - Let us know if you have any concerns about your child's safety or wellbeing.
  - Support your child's learning about staying safe, including online safety.
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## Contacts and Further Information

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** Mr. Tom Johnston (Headteacher) - 02380 265255
  - **Deputy DSLs:** Mrs. Claire Sambles and Mrs. Nikki Caine
  - **Safeguarding Governor:** Ms. Vicky Robinson
  - **Chair of Governors:** Mr. Alex Guthrie (contact via school office or email at [chairofgovernors@merdonschool.co.uk](mailto:chairofgovernors@merdonschool.co.uk))
  - In emergencies or immediate child protection concerns outside school hours, contact Children's Social Care on 0300 555 1373 or the police on 999.
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## Review and Updates

- This policy was adopted in September 2025 and will be reviewed in September 2026 to ensure it remains up to date with national guidance and best practises.
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**Summary:** Merdon Junior School is committed to providing a safe and caring environment where every child can thrive. This policy outlines how your child is protected while at school and how we work together with families and external agencies to safeguard their wellbeing.

If you have any questions about this policy or concerns about your child's safety, please contact the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead.