



Safeguarding at Merdon Junior School

A Guide for Parents

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as: protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's 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.



What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse is wrong and is against the law!

Physical Abuse



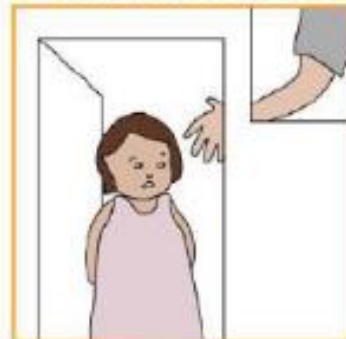
**Harm to Your Body that
Makes You Feel Pain**

Emotional Abuse



Harm to Your Heart or Mind

Sexual Abuse



**Behaviours that Make You
Feel Bad or Embarrassed**

Neglect



**Carers Not Taking Care
of You**

Child Exploitation



Taking Advantage of You



Who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead?

- Mr Johnston is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and he has overall responsibility for safeguarding at Botley School. He can be contacted through the school office or via email at admin@merdon.hants.sch.uk
- The Deputy Safeguarding Leads are Miss Sambles, and Mrs Caine. They have responsibility for safeguarding in Mr Johnston's absence.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Deputies have training every other year to make sure they are up to date.
- Our safeguarding Governor is **XXXXXXXX**. She helps the Governors to monitor how the Designated Safeguarding Lead is promoting safeguarding in the school.

How are staff trained about safeguarding?

- All staff have training every year on safeguarding, making sure they understand the signs of abuse and how to keep children safe, with ongoing training throughout the year.
- Every member of staff reads an important document for schools called Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- Mr Johnston and Miss Sambles regularly quiz the staff to make sure that they have remembered and understood their training!
- All staff regularly receive training on Prevent. Prevent is the duty that all schools have to prevent children from being radicalised.
- Appropriate members of staff receive First Aid Training.
- Appropriate staff receive Fire Safety Training and all staff take part in regular fire drills.





How do our children learn about safeguarding?

- We have a strong PSHE curriculum where children have lessons about welfare and personal safety.
- As part of PSHE, we teach Relationship and Sex Education in line with the Government's guidance.
- We teach e-safety as part of the Computing curriculum.
- Our children take part in special events such as Road Safety Week and Safer Internet Day.
- We talk about risks and how to manage them in subjects such as DT and Science, especially if the children are using special equipment.
- We have regular worships where we talk about keeping safe.
- We read stories which encourage children to celebrate difference and diversity, so that they feel confident to speak out if they encounter prejudice or radicalisation.

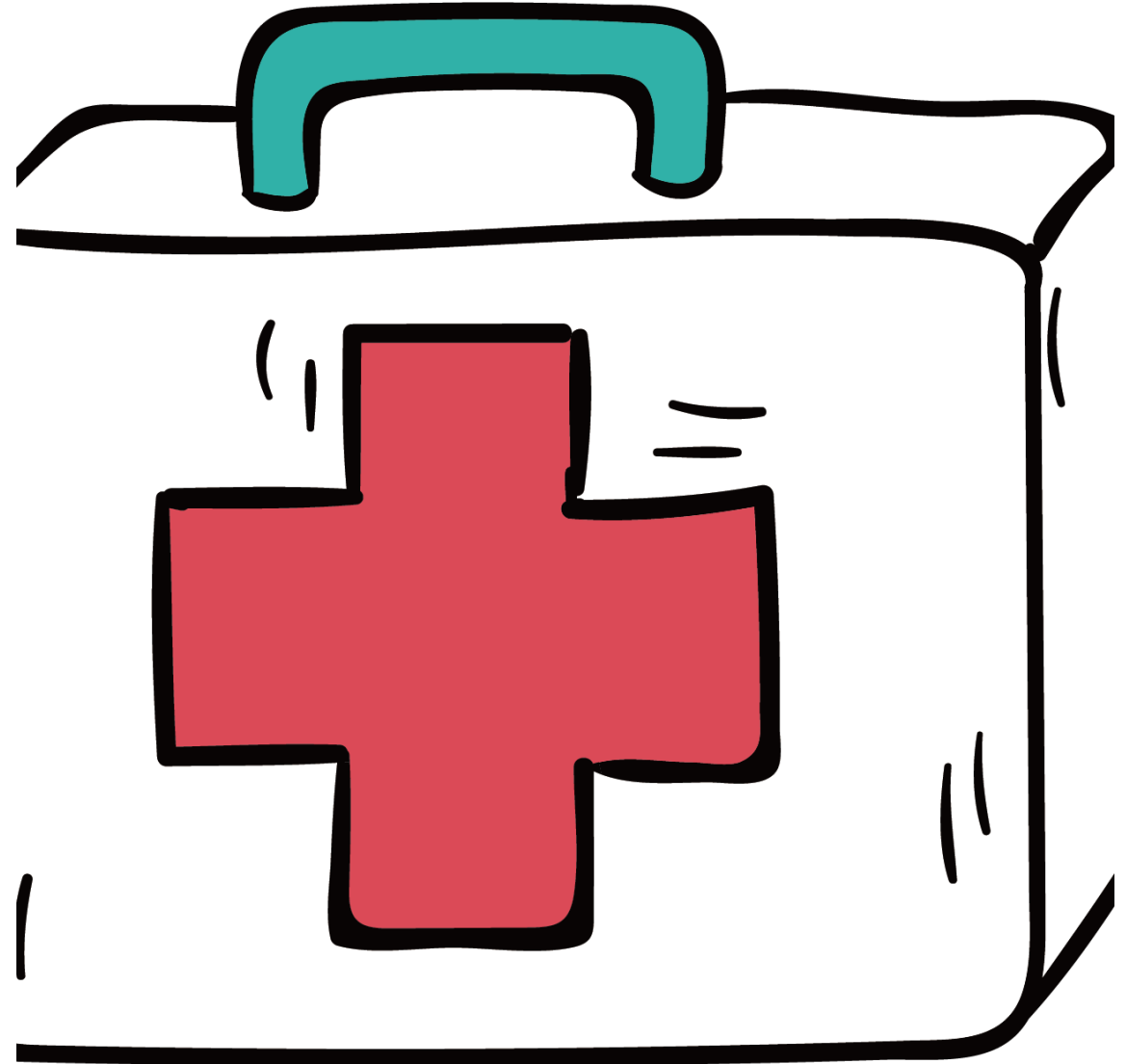
What about Health and Safety?

- Regular Fire Practices take place.
- We have risk assessments in place for all key activities and these can be found in the school office.
- Our Health and Safety Governor monitors all our policies and practice.
- We teach the children how to keep themselves safe, for example teaching them how to use PE equipment safely before they use it.
- Individual pupils who have additional needs have plans for extra support they need.



What about First Aid?

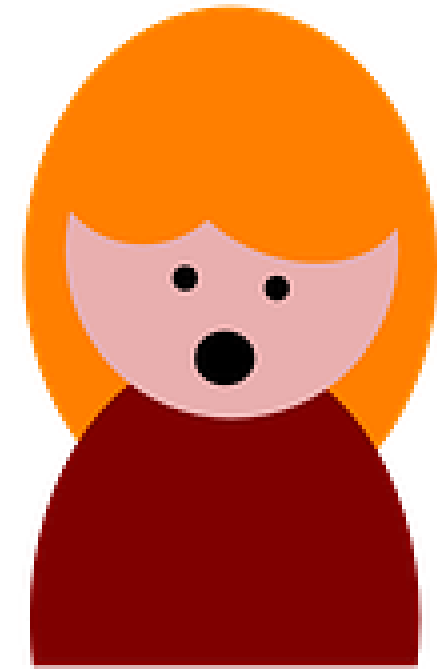
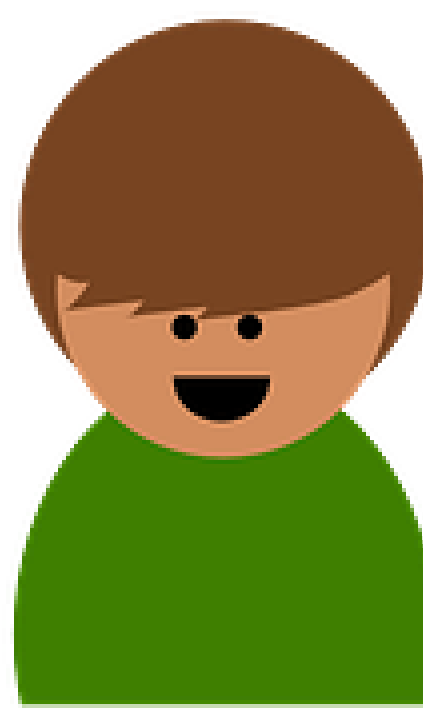
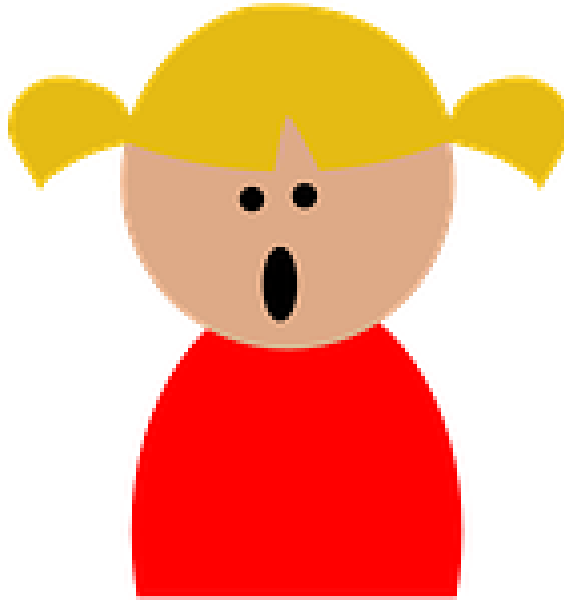
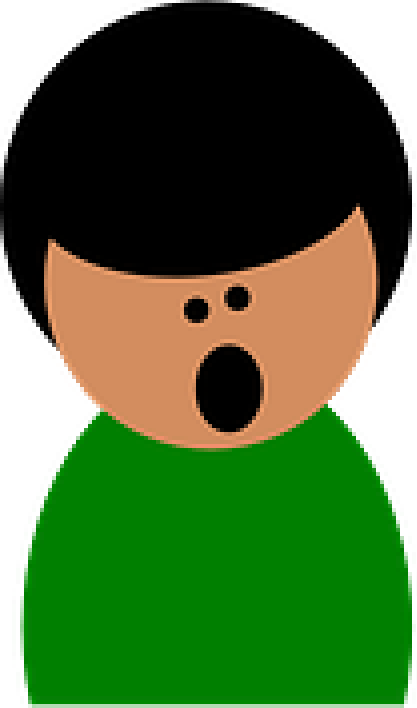
- Trained staff administer First Aid.
- Information about individual pupils with medical needs is shared with staff so that they can help them in the best way. These children have a Health Care Plan.
- All First Aids are recorded thoroughly.
- We have conversations with parents if their child has needed First Aid and if a child has bumped their head, we also notify parents **via Arbor?**.
- All staff know the children very well and can spot changes which might suggest they are unwell
- We have a very thorough First Aid Policy which we have put on our website.



How are children kept safe during off-site visits and with visitors to the school?

- All visitors to the school, including volunteers, are required to complete a DBS check before starting.
- All new staff and volunteers have a thorough induction, including aspects of safeguarding and health and safety.
- We share school protocols for trips with all adults before going.
- Before a trip or before a visitor, we complete thorough risk assessments and pre-visits.
- Medical information is shared with all relevant adults before trips and medicines are taken on trips and carefully controlled.
- Transport is arranged, risk assessed and managed carefully by staff.





How is attendance monitored?

- We monitor attendance carefully, including incidents of late arrival at school.
- We have regular conversations with parents where attendance and time keeping is becoming a concern.
- Parents receive letters from the school if their child's absence remains a concern.
- Parents are offered support with attendance if this is appropriate including support from our Family Support Worker, Mrs Caine.
- If necessary, parents can be signposted towards support from other outside agencies, such as Banardos or the Family Support Service.

How do we promote an anti-bullying message to our children?

What is bullying?

Bullying is when an individual or group **deliberately** hurts another or makes them feel unhappy. Bullying behaviour will be repeated over a period of time and is difficult for the victim to defend against. Bullying may also be *racist, sexist, or homophobic*. People can be bullied for any reason; because of the way they look, because of their religion, their age or because of a learning or physical difference, for example.

- We use the acronym **STOP** to define bullying:

- **Several**
- **Times**
- **On**
- **Purpose**



Bullying is not

It is important to understand that bullying is not a period of falling out with friends, name calling, arguments or when the occasional trick or joke is played on someone. Children sometimes fall out and say things because they are upset. When occasional problems of this kind arise, although unkind, it is not classed as bullying. It is an important part of children's development to learn how to deal with friendship breakdowns or an unwanted comment.

How do we aim to prevent bullying at Merdon Junior?

We discuss, reward and celebrate our school values of being Connected and Thoughtful.

Each class agrees on their own set of class rules.

We recognise national anti-bullying week each year.

We raise awareness through assemblies and work in PSHE lessons.

In PSHE we use drama and role-play activities to help children be more assertive and teach them strategies to help them deal with bullying situations.

We teach the children about positive friendships

We have introduced playground improvements and initiatives, e.g. a rota of activities to support positive play.

We use praise and rewards to reinforce respectful behaviour.

We facilitate multi agency work – working with Children's Services, police etc.

We work with our lunchtime staff to ensure that they support children in making and sustaining positive friendships.

We record any incidents of bullying, making sure that we have the capacity to observe any patterns of concerning behaviour.

We put in clear sanctions for any unacceptable behaviour.

What do we teach children about online safety?

High Speed Training * TOP TEN TIPS TO * STAY SAFE ONLINE *

- 1 Don't share your personal information
- 2 Only talk to people that you know
- 3 Don't meet up with anyone you have only met online
- 4 Only accept friend requests from people you know personally
- 5 Always think carefully about what you post
- 6 Make use of the privacy settings on all of your social media accounts
- 7 Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are
- 8 Report inappropriate content immediately
- 9 Only share images that you'd be comfortable with your friends and family seeing
- 10 Never share your passwords

S

SHARE RESPONSIBLY
 We all love to share photographs, fun things we're doing and much more.
 Be careful what you share and always ask permission if somebody else is in the photo or video.

M

MANAGE your PRIVACY
 If you're using apps that can communicate with others, turn on privacy.
 Only let people you really know follow you unless you've asked permission from your parents.

A

ASK for HELP
 Don't ever be worried about asking for help from someone you trust.
 You will NOT be judged.

R

RESPECT OTHERS
 Be kind.
 Other people may have different opinions from you.
 That's okay, but if they become abusive, take screenshots, block and report and tell an adult.

T

THINK CRITICALLY
TRUST your INSTINCT
 Is it true?
 Does that person really know me?
 Has that really happened?
 Always question!

If anything worries you, or if you need help with something, speak to:

Even if you cannot see someone, things you write and send to others can still upset them.



What do we do in school if we have a safeguarding concern?

- We know our children very well, so the first thing we do is look carefully for any changes in children's behaviour, appearance, friendships or learning behaviours.
- We write down exactly what we notice or what a child has said to us on C-POMs, which is our secure in-school system.
- If appropriate, we talk to parents about our concerns.
- We continue to monitor the child to see if there are any more concerns.
- If we have a serious concern, we might ask Children's Services or the police for more support.



What can you do if you have a concern?

- If you feel that you or your child are in danger, you must call the police.
- You can come and talk to Mr Johnston or Miss Sambles.
- You can speak to our Family Support Worker, Mrs Caine, who can signpost you to organisations who may be able to help.
- There are other safeguarding agencies which can offer help and advice including:

The freephone, 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline:
0808 2000247

Solent Mind Tel: **023 8202 7810**

Young Minds free parents' helpline on **0808 802 5544**

Hampshire Specialist CAMHS: **02382 317912**



Useful websites

NSPCC - www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/

CAMHS - <https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/>

Banardos – www.banardos.org.uk

Solent Mind – www.solentmind.org.uk

Young Minds – www.youngminds.org.uk

Domestic Abuse - www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

ChildLine – www.childline.org.uk

Family Action – www.family-action.org.uk

Relate – <https://www.relate.org.uk/reducing-parental-conflict>

E-safety - www.childnet.com

Change Grow Live Southampton - www.changegrowlive.org/drug-alcohol-service-southampton/info

