



Buckland Primary School

Believe, Excel, Strive, Together



A Guide to Safeguarding at Buckland Primary.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is essentially about keeping children and young people safe from abuse or neglect. All those who come into contact with children and families in their everyday work, including people who do not have a specific role in relation to child protection, have a duty to safeguard children and promote the welfare of children.

Together we have a collective responsibility!

Safeguarding means that:

- ✓ Children are protected from mistreatment
- ✓ A child's health, or development, is protected
- ✓ Children grow up with safe and effective care
- ✓ Action is taken to ensure the **BEST** outcomes for all children

Why is safeguarding important?

At Buckland Primary we understand that promoting the welfare of all the children within our community means ensuring that we create every opportunity for our children to grow, develop and achieve their own potential whilst being protected from harmful influences and actions either on the part of others or themselves. By doing this we will enable children to maximise their own life chances.

If you are concerned about the safety of any child in our school you must report it to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs). **The school's Designated Safeguarding Leaders are:**

- Lead DSL: Mrs Rebecca Hutton (Headteacher)
- Deputy DSL: Mr P De Leonardis (Deputy Headteacher)
 - Deputy DSL: Mrs Jacqui Tracey (SENCo)
- Deputy DSL: Mrs Emma Hawthorn (Welfare Officer)
- Deputy DSL: Ms Marie Caller (Home School Link Worker)

If your concern is about the Headteacher please report it to: Mrs Hilary Watson (Chair of Governors)

How do we ensure that we safeguard all pupils?

It is our mission to promote the welfare of, and effectively safeguard, the children in our care by:

- Valuing our pupils as individuals
- Listening to our pupils and their views and allowing them the space to express themselves
- Respecting our pupils as individuals and promoting their individuality within our community
- Involving pupils and consulting with them in decisions about things which affect them
- Ensuring adherence to school policies on confidentiality and protection of personal information
- Making sure all governors, staff, volunteers and visitors and anyone else who is involved in the day to day life of Buckland Primary are aware of and committed to the safeguarding policy and child protection procedures
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Adopting a Code of Conduct for all staff, governors, volunteers and visitors which includes e-safety and the use of mobile phones.

What will happen if we feel there is a safeguarding issue?

As a school we are required to share information about concerns and pupil welfare issues with external agencies on a need to know basis.

Should a child make a disclosure we will contact the appropriate agencies. If we feel that a child may be put at further risk if adults are informed we will do this without reference to others. Where allegations concern members of staff these will be dealt with in accordance with our child protection procedures. A copy of the school's policy is available from the school office or on the school's website.

Resources for parents to help safeguard their children

The NSPCC website has some informative and age appropriate resources to help parents educate their children about keeping themselves safe. Visit their website at www.nspcc.org.uk

Parents in the school grounds

1. Parents must never approach other peoples' children to discuss any type of issue with them. This is unacceptable and the school will take immediate action should this happen. This may involve calling Children's Services as this is our duty. We may also call the police. When threatening and unfamiliar adults approach children, they feel:

Frightened Vulnerable Unsafe Scared Intimated

You wouldn't like your child to feel this way. Take the right approach – come into school and let us deal with it!

2. Parents should not approach other parents if they have an issue with either them or their child. This is not the right way to deal with problems and leads to:
 - Unacceptable behaviour on our school grounds e.g. fighting, aggressive behaviour
 - Children feeling frightened
 - Both adults and children feeling unsafe on school grounds
3. If you see, or hear, something that concerns you regarding the welfare of one of our pupils:
 - Come into school and speak to a member of the school staff
 - Make a note of the concern including the time, date, factual details and names where possible; pass this information on to school. You can remain anonymous if you wish.

Mobile Phones

Please refrain from using mobile phones whilst **inside** the school building, especially when dropping off or picking up your child/ren. Phones can be used during family assemblies – in line with our policy (see below).

Social Networking

Talking on Facebook

Please refrain from discussing the school, or its staff, on any social networking site such as Facebook, or Twitter. This protects not only the school but yourselves too! Members of staff can, and will, contact the police if there are malicious comments made about them.

Photographs

If you would like to upload any photographs of your children at school events, school productions or class assemblies please remember that only your **own child** should be in the picture.

Think: how would you feel if your child was visible online without your permission or your knowledge?

Inappropriate use of Social Networking Sites

The staff and Governors of Buckland Primary School consider the use of social media websites being used to incite complaints against the school as unacceptable and not in the BEST interests of the children or the whole school community.

Additionally, and even more important, is the issue of cyber bullying and the use by a child or parent to publically humiliate another through inappropriate social networking entries. We would deal with this as a serious incident of bullying. Thankfully such incidents are extremely rare.