

Safeguarding Newsletter for Parents / carers

We will now be sending out a safeguarding newsletter to all parents, carers and pupils each half term. We hope that this will help to highlight current local and national safeguarding worries and show you what we are doing in school to help keep all of our pupils safe. Each newsletter will have a “focus on...” section which will show you what safeguarding topic we are focusing on that half term giving you information and advice on that topic so that we can all work together with the same aim of keeping our children safe in school, at home, and in the wider community. On the final page of each safeguarding newsletter, you will find a useful reminder of who the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL’S) are at each school within the trust.

What is safeguarding?

The NSPCC states that **safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.** Safeguarding means:

- 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 a DSL?

At The HEART Education Trust we understand that **safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility** and we always keep in mind that “**it could happen here**”. The DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) in school has a crucial role in taking the **lead responsibility for safeguarding** and child protection. Safeguarding is on a need to know basis only and therefore not all members of school staff are aware of each individual child’s safeguarding or child protection concerns. The DSLs in school are the main point of contact with safeguarding concerns as they hold all of the safeguarding knowledge and information about individual children and they help to reduce the risk of harm and keep children safe. A DSL is always available and on school site during school hours for staff, parents and children to discuss any safeguarding concerns that they may have.

This half term the safeguarding focus is on Peer on Peer abuse

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 talks about peer on peer abuse and states - Children can abuse other children. This is generally referred to as peer on peer abuse and can take many forms. This can include (but is not limited to) bullying (including cyberbullying); sexual violence and sexual harassment; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; sexting and initiating/hazing type violence and rituals.

We need to make sure that the children affected by peer on peer abuse are getting the help that they need. This may mean a **multi-agency approach** and may involve the child's family, school, children's services, the police, and any other professionals who know or have had contact with the child.

School guidance is very clear that in the case of peer on peer abuse, the school must continue to **provide support to the victim and the alleged perpetrator** 'for as long as necessary'. As well as supporting and protecting the victim, schools need to consider whether the perpetrator could be a victim of abuse too.

Schools also need to **think about risks to other children**. If there's an incident in a school, has this put other children at risk? Have other children witnessed the incident? Could any siblings of the perpetrator be at risk? Where did the incident happen? What can be done to make the environment safer?

It's equally important to think about children's **safety outside of the school gates**. Are we aware of any unsafe spaces in the local area? Are we aware of incidents involving children in the local park or other places where young people congregate? Information like this should be passed on as contextual information to the schools DSL who can then share this with the police and other external agencies so that they can address the risks and work together to help keep children in the community safe.

Whole School Approach

We should not wait until an incident of peer-on-peer abuse happens before taking action. We should create an environment in which **children, staff and parents/carers show respect for one another**. Children should know what language and behaviour is acceptable and what to do and who to speak to if they are worried or feel unsafe. We should set expectations that violence and harassment of any kind will not be tolerated, support children to have a good understanding of healthy relationships and provide immediate support for any form of abuse.

If you are concerned about peer on peer abuse in school then please speak to schools DSL.

Always remember...

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

What can you do to help with safeguarding?

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child then please speak to your schools DSL and share your concerns. Your information may help that child and family receive the help and support that they need to keep them safe.

If you feel a child is at risk of immediate harm or danger then please contact the police immediately on 999.

If you are worried about a safeguarding concern outside of school in your local area then please share your concerns with your schools DSL so that they can help to work with wider agencies to help keep children in the community and local area safe.

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Heartsease Primary Academy	Henderson Green Primary Academy	Lingwood Primary Academy	Valley Primary Academy	The HEART Education Trust
Neil Campbell	Julia Christou	Stuart Walker	Sara Bush	Christina Kenna Hazel Cabbage Neil Campbell Sarah Porter Katie Pelling April Sharman

Alternate Designated Safeguarding Leads

HPA	HGPA	LPA	VPA	Safeguarding Trustee
Clair Gribble Jenny Stafford	Ian Hart	Caroline Laycock	Miles Elcock	Laura Myles

Safeguarding Support

HPA	HGPA	LPA	VPA
Caz Bale	Bridget Massen	Kim Walker	Paul Loveday