

Princess May Primary School

A Parent's Guide to Safeguarding and Child Protection

This short guide is aimed to help you to understand what is meant by 'Child Protection & Safeguarding' and our school procedures.

Q. What is KCSIE - 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and why is it so important?

The KCSIE document contains information on what schools and colleges should do and sets out the legal duties with which schools and colleges must comply.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1101454/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2022.pdf. It is essential that everybody working in a school or college understands their safeguarding responsibilities. Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that those staff who work directly with children read at least Part one of this guidance. It should be read alongside statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2> to ensure a shared understanding of best practice in safeguarding.

Q. Who has overall responsibility for Child Protection & Safeguarding at Princess May?

The responsibility for *ensuring children are safeguarded lies with everyone*. The following adults have a lead in this area:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Jennette McCree-Boyle (Deputy Headteacher)

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Kevin Reynolds (Headteacher), Laura Archer (Assistant Headteacher) and Hannah Blunden (SENDCo)

Nominated Governor responsible for Child Protection & Safeguarding: Kristofer McGhee

Q. What does Safeguarding mean?

- **Protecting** children from maltreatment
- **Preventing** impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Making sure children receive **safe and effective care**
- **Taking action** to enable all children to have the **best outcomes**

Q. What are the 4 main types of abuse?

1. **Neglect**
2. **Physical** abuse
3. **Emotional** abuse
4. **Sexual** abuse

Child abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child, any action by another person – adult or child – that causes significant harm/inflicts harm on a child, or fails to act to prevent harm. Children can be at risk of abuse in situations outside, as well as within, their families.

It can be **physical, sexual** or **emotional**, but can just as often be about a **lack of love, care and attention**. We know that **neglect** can be just as damaging to a child as physical abuse.

An abused child will often experience more than one type of abuse, as well as other difficulties in their lives. It often happens over a period of time, rather than being a one-off event and it can increasingly happen online and offline, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Certain factors can make a child more vulnerable to abuse, including those with SEND and those with EAL. Although there are 4 main types of abuse, in most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another. The critical thing, though, is to be '**professionally curious**' and be able to **spot that something might be wrong**.

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Q. What does the school do if a child starts to disclose abuse?

Reassure the child that s/he is right to tell and is not to blame.

- **DO NOT** promise not to tell anyone else; explain that you have to make sure the child is safe and may need to ask other adults to help you to do this – the school DSL.
- **DO NOT** question the child; let her/him tell you what s/he wants to tell you and no more. When the child is finished, make sure s/he feels secure; explain what you are going to do next.
- **Record** the concern on CPOMS as soon as possible. CPOMS (Child Protection Online Management System) is safeguarding software used by the school to record behaviour incidents as well as disclosures, incidents of harm or abuse and cause for concern.
- If an existing concern of a similar nature is already open, update the concern already recorded in CPOMS. If this is a new or unrelated disclosure, record a new concern.
- If you believe the concern is an emergency or time sensitive, please speak to the DSL, Jennette McCree-Boyle as soon as possible and in her absence one of the Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Kevin Reynolds, Laura Archer or Hannah Blunden.

Q. What if an allegation is made against a member of staff/adult or volunteer?

All concerns of poor practice or possible child abuse by staff/volunteer should be reported immediately to the Headteacher (Kevin Reynolds) or to the DSL/Deputy Head teacher (Jennette McCree-Boyle) in the absence of the headteacher. The headteacher Kevin Reynolds must consult with a LADO Officer (Local Authority Designated Officer) who will help to determine how the matter is to be investigated. Each Local Authority has a Designated Officer (LADO) responsible for ensuring that allegations are managed in a proper way.

Q. What if an allegation is made against the Headteacher?

If an allegation is made against the Headteacher, it should be reported to the chair of governors (Kristofer McGhee) who will then contact the local authority designated officer (LADO).

Q. Who are MASH? What do they do? What if there is a concern about a child?

Hackney's MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) acts as a single point of contact for professionals and members of the public seeking additional support or a safeguarding response to children and young people in need or at risk. Professionals from Children's Social Care, Health, Probation, the Police and others work together as a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub to assess referrals and ensure children in need of early help are put in touch with relevant services.

MASH will obtain information with a view to helping them decide which is the most appropriate service to deal with the issue/concern raised. Anyone can make a referral to MASH and the link to make a referral is on our website. <https://hackney.gov.uk/child-protection>

Professionals are also able to ask for a consultation with a member of the MASH team.

Q. How does the consultation line work?

- It's for professionals only
- For cases that are not already open to the Council's service
- The caller must have consulted the school DSL first
- Call the usual MASH number – 020 8356 5500 – and ask for a consultation
- Experienced members of staff from MASH will respond

MASH will listen to the concerns and offer advice and guidance about the most appropriate next steps – their advice may include:

- a request for further conversations with the child and family about the concerns and – with their consent – other members of the family's network
- a written referral to MASH

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- a referral to another service

MASH will keep a log of calls to monitor the consultation lines use, but calls will not be recorded on their files. It is important that anyone contacting MASH make their own agency records of discussions.

Q. What CPD/training opportunities in relation to Safeguarding & Child Protection are available to school staff?

Staff receive training currently in a variety of forms. For example:

- KCSIE Staff Inset – includes updated DfE guidance & legislation
- Updates provided during weekly staff meetings which may include further reinforcement of procedures or known changes to legislation
- Bulletin updates by Hackney Education – SLT are made aware and shared
- School website (safeguarding section) kept up-to-date
- The school has also purchased a license from The Key which enables staff to access a variety of online training courses in relation to Child Protection and Safeguarding.

Q. Who oversees Safeguarding in Hackney?

The **City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board (CHSCB)** is the key statutory body overseeing arrangements for safeguarding children and young people across the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney.

Q. What are some of the risks to children in the local community?

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Gang involvement/influence
- Knife crime
- Bullying
- Radicalisation and Extremism

Q. How do we educate our children at Princess May about how to keep safe?

We use the NSPCC 'Speak out Stay safe' safeguarding programme for children aged 5- to 11-years-old. The programme helps children understand:

- abuse in all its forms and how to recognise signs of abuse
- that abuse is never a child's fault and that they have the right to be safe
- where to get help and the sources of help available to them, including Childline service.
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/kids>

During our weekly 'Wellbeing' class sessions we help our children to understand how to look after themselves mentally and emotionally as well as physically. We teach our children about their rights, using the UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) the 43 articles relating to children's rights in the charter https://www.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/UNCRC_summary-1_1.pdf, and our school Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy are also used to help promote the school values of respect, empathy, responsibility, determination and aspiration helping our children to look after themselves and others. In PSHCE lessons children learn about their bodies, body parts including genitalia and the correct terminology. The school PSHCE scheme of work follows the statutory DfE guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>.

If you have any questions regarding the school's Safeguarding & Child Protection school policy and procedures please do not hesitate to speak with the school DSL – Mrs McCree-Boyle.