

Safeguarding Newsletter



Autumn Term 2021

At Alverton Primary School, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and of utmost priority.

The aim of our termly safeguarding newsletter is to communicate key information to parents concerning safeguarding and how as a school we aim to keep you informed to actively promote the safeguarding and welfare of all our pupils.

You can find further safeguarding information in the Safeguarding section of our website, including all our previous Safeguarding newsletters which contain a range of safeguarding information.

<http://www.alverton.org.uk/website/safeguarding/85998> and http://www.alverton.org.uk/website/online_safety_for_families/246722

Peer on Peer Sexual Abuse

The DfE recently commissioned a review into sexual harassment in children and young people. Much of this data comes from secondary school settings but it became clear that there is a significant issue with sexual harassment in children and young people and the associated gender violence consequences.

What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment in general is any unwanted sexual attention online and offline that can cause physical, emotional / mental, psychological or economic harm to the victim.

Can this happen with primary-aged children?

Research suggests that more than a third of sexual abuse reported by any age children is perpetrated by their peers (peer on peer sexual abuse) with girls being the victim in the majority of cases. Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between children of any sex. It is important that we teach all children (boys and girls), of all ages, what is acceptable interaction and what is not and how to behave respectfully towards one another, and then what they must do if any unwanted sexual attention happens to them.

Abuse or banter?

- Banter or inappropriate jokes can normalise a diminished role for girls and women or take away their power, independence and respect
- Name calling that is gender or sexual orientation derogatory
- Use of the term "gay" as an insult
- Comments on appearance that draw attention to size, body parts, attractiveness
- Sexual comments, obscene gestures, using obscenities (most swear words are sexual in their origin)

"Downplaying certain behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as "just banter", "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys" can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children and, in worst case scenarios, a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it". (Keeping Children Safe In Education 2021)

What is your child doing on their phone or device?

It was found that where children were being coerced into sending inappropriate images, this was often happening on social media platforms such as What's App and Snapchat.

How are you monitoring who your child is communicating with online and offline?

Do you know what they are saying and sending?

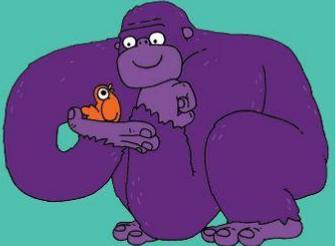
Do you know what your child is seeing and hearing?

Who monitors whole class pupil What's App groups (although the age for this is 13) —is there a designated parent member to supervise behaviour?

Evidence was found of pupils of all ages sending and receiving inappropriate material on their phones, children having their photo taken without consent and shared and children being put under pressure to send photos of themselves to others.

What can I do?

- If children understand their own bodies, the terminology to use and why other words are not appropriate, they will speak more knowledgeably and respectfully to each other.
- Challenge your child if they are using stereotypical or sexist language and educate why it is wrong.
- Talk openly (in an age-appropriate way) about anatomy and the similarities and differences between people.
- Teach your child what healthy relationships look like—this is lifelong learning that will shape how your child views their future interactions with people and what they see as acceptable.
- Teach your child about consent
- Make sure your child knows that they can say “No” when the behaviour of another person crosses an acceptable boundary
- Teach your child to tell someone they trust about what has happened to them.



**WORRIED? WE'RE
HERE TO LISTEN**

Call Childline on 0800 1111
or visit childline.org.uk/kids

childline
ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

Whatever your worry, call us and a friendly person will be there to listen. It's free, you don't have to tell us your name, and we're here all day and night.

Who can I talk to if I am worried about a child?

If you see it, hear it or know about it - report it!

This could be a child being neglected or any other kind of abuse.

Remember - safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Mr Higgs is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for Alverton School and **Mrs Wicks** is the Deputy DSL. They will always be willing to listen to any concerns you may have.

If they are not available, Mrs Clemens, Mr Dawe, Mrs Daylak, Mrs Hall, Mrs Hughes, Mrs O'Neill and Mrs O'Rourke have all received additional safeguarding training and will be able to help you.

01736 364087

**Cornwall Multi-
Agency Referral Unit**
0300 123 1116

NSPCC 
HELPLINE
0808 800 5000
help@nspcc.org.uk

ChildLine
0800 1111 