

Oakham Primary School

Safeguarding Policy for Children



Approved by Governors on:

18/06/24

Signature of Chair of Governors:

Lead Personnel:

N Skett

Date to be reviewed:

18/06/26

Feeling safe and happy at school

At Oakham, we want to make sure that you feel looked after, safe and happy when you are in and out of school. Sometimes we don't know if something bad is happening, so you need to tell us.

This booklet, which is known as a 'policy', looks at what we do to make sure you are kept safe, and what you can do when you think someone is hurting you or someone else. We can help you by:

- Teaching you what safeguarding is (PSHE lessons & Assemblies)
- Teaching you what to do if you feel worried or scared.
- Making sure you know who you can speak to if you are worried.

If you don't understand something or have any questions about what you read in this policy, please ask an adult for help.

What does 'safeguarding' mean?

'Safeguarding' refers to all the things we do to make sure you are kept safe from any harm. Safeguarding means that staff will:

- Protect you from harm.
- Make sure that nothing stops you being healthy or developing properly.
- Make sure that you are looked after.
- Make sure that you have the best life chances and can grow up happy and successful.



We will make sure that the school is a friendly, welcoming and supportive place to spend time in, making it somewhere you want to be. We want to make sure that you know who to ask for help, and will support your learning to help you know how to look after yourself online and in the real world.

In every school there is always somebody who has the responsibility to keep you safe and all staff have to tell that person if they are worried about you – this person is called the **DSL**, which stands for **Designated Safeguarding Lead**.

Other members of staff have also been taught how to do the DSL's job and are known as **Deputy DSLs (DDSL)**. Our DSL team is made up of **Mr Skett, Miss Stretton & Mrs Francis**.

		
Headteacher & DSL	Deputy Headteacher & Deputy DSL	SAW Lead & Deputy DSL

Staying Safe

If you are worried about something, you can talk to any adult in school that you trust. This could be your teacher or any other staff member. **If you need to talk, we will listen.** We respect you and want to keep you safe, so we will do our best to help you to feel safe and happy.

We will also teach you how to spot risks and what you can do to keep yourself safe. We think it is important for you to know where to get help if you are worried or unhappy about something, and we also will do our best to notice if there is a problem.

We will always make time to listen and talk if you need us, please remember:

- You are important to us.
- It's never your fault if someone is hurting you.
- There is always someone that can help you and you will not be in trouble.
- If someone is hurting you, they may also be hurting someone else, so it is important that you tell someone to make it stop and know that you will be kept safe.
- Every child should enjoy the right to a happy and safe childhood – do not be scared to tell someone if there is *anything* worrying you.

What is Abuse and what should I do if I think I've been abused?



'When someone hurts or mistreats you, it can be called abuse. This is when someone does something to you that is harmful, unpleasant or painful.

Abuse is never okay and if you are being or have been abused you must remember; **it is not your fault.**

You must always tell someone and they will help it to stop.

It's important that you tell someone you trust if someone:

- Bullies you.
- Says or does something that makes you feel bad about yourself or hurts your feelings which makes you feel scared, sad, upset or frightened.
- Shouts, threatens, hits or hurts someone you love whilst you are around which makes you scared, unhappy or worried.
- Doesn't take proper care of you so you feel abandoned, lonely or neglected. You might not be able to eat or wash regularly, or you might not be able to come to school every day or on time.
- Touching a private part of your body or places you know are wrong. (Remember your PANTS training!)
- Makes you look at things which make you feel ashamed, embarrassed, uncomfortable or guilty. They may ask you to keep it a secret or give you presents.
- Deliberately hitting, injuring, humiliating or hurting you.
- Taking or damaging your personal things.
- Sending unkind messages on the internet or to your phone.



It is important you tell someone as soon as someone starts hurting or harming you, or you think that this is happening to someone else. Speaking to a TRUSTED ADULT such as a parent, carer parent, carer or teacher will mean that we can make sure the abuse stops and doesn't happen again.

There are also organisations outside of school that you can go to for help. You can call or visit:



<http://www.childline.org.uk>



<http://www.nspcc.org.uk>

Need to Talk?

If you need to talk, we will listen! You can talk to any trusted adult within our school, that's anyone you feel comfortable talking to and they will help you. If you do not want to talk, you can always write it down and give it to a member of staff or use one of the worry boxes around school.

If I have shared a worry or concern, what will happen next?

Sometimes a member of staff at school will need to check things with Mr Skett, Miss Stretton or Mrs Francis and then, if they can deal with the issue, they will. However, there are times when they may need to contact other people for support and advice. These may be Children's Services (Social Workers) or the Police.



There are lots of other people who are available to support you and your family too. Staff will talk to you and explain all of this and you can always ask us questions if you are unsure about anything.

Bullying

Bullying is a type of abuse that takes place when someone tries to hurt another person on purpose for a prolonged period of time. Bullying is not always done by one person and can often involve a group of people 'ganging up' on someone – if you ever see someone being bullied, never join in and always tell a teacher. The bully could be one of your peers, an older or younger child or an adult. It's important that you tell someone if you think you are being bullied.

People can be bullied in many different ways:

Emotional bullying includes hurting someone's feelings, by leaving them out or bossing them about.

People can sometimes use emotional bullying to take advantage of you to get their own way by making threats or making you feel like you have to do something for them.

Physical bullying can include hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling or purposely hurting someone.

Verbal bullying can include insulting someone because of how they look or because of their personality, and can often go beyond that. People can also use verbal bullying to be *racist*, *sexist* or *homophobic*.

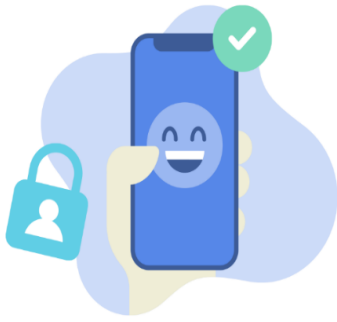
Racist bullying is bullying someone because of their race, skin colour, the country they are from or the religion they believe in.

Homophobic bullying means bullying someone because of their sexuality or calling someone gay or lesbian to insult them or hurt their feelings.

Sexist bullying is bullying someone because of their gender; bullying someone because they are a boy or a girl would be sexist.

Cyberbullying includes any kind of bullying which takes place online; cyberbullies send insulting messages over the internet and sometimes share secret information online to hurt someone's feelings.

Internet safety



Internet safety is an important part of keeping children safe at our school. We have lots of safety measures in place which we keep an eye on both in and outside of school, to help safeguard children.

Computers and mobile phones help us all to share things and talk to friends or family, but they can also make it easier for bullies and other people to hurt you or to get close to you. It is important to know how to keep yourself safe on your computer, your phone and on websites.

The school will help if you are sent unkind messages or if someone on the internet has asked you to do anything that has made you feel uncomfortable.

Remember! If you are unhappy with any comments or photographs you've seen on your computer or mobile, you can tell a staff member in school.

Relationships

Any relationship you have should be positive and make you feel safe, happy and comfortable. A negative relationship might make someone feel scared, confused, worried and even unsafe. It is really important that you know the difference between a positive relationship and a negative relationship.

Positive Relationships

- + You are comfortable around that person.
- + You can be honest with that person.
- + You can say how you feel and what you are thinking, and you listen to each other.
- + You support each other and treat each other well.
- + You feel safe.
- + You trust that person.
- + You do helpful things for each other.
- + You are never pressured to do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable.
- + You feel looked after.



Negative Relationships

- The person might push you, hit you or break your things.
- The person might tell you what to do, what to wear or who you can see.
- You might feel scared – they might say they will hurt you if you don't do something.
- The person might make threats or do harmful things if you do something they did not want you to do.
- The person calls you names, makes you feel bad in front of other people and makes you feel bad about yourself.
- The person gets angry easily and you don't know what will make them angry – it might make you feel nervous.
- The person might pressure you to do things you don't want to do or are not ready for.
- The person might not take no for answer when you say you don't want to do something.



School Buildings and the Playground

All school staff will do their best to make sure the building is safe for you to learn in and spend time in. We will make sure that you know who everyone is in school by asking visitors to sign in when they arrive at school. You will always know who a visitor to the school is because they will have a lanyard or badge to wear.

If you see someone acting suspiciously or trying to gain access to school grounds you should report this to the nearest adult. People that we do not know will never be allowed to spend time with you on your own and they will not be allowed to walk around the school without a member of staff.

Always Remember...



If you are upset or worried about something that has happened to or you or someone else then please remember you can be brave and talk to someone who will listen to you and help you. Most importantly, you do NOT have to keep your worries a secret - If you need to talk, we will listen.