

# Safeguarding Policy for Children



## What is this?

Whetley Academy has a Safeguarding Policy in place that explains how we protect all the children and adults within our school community.

This 'child friendly' policy is a summary of the main Safeguarding Policy. It is written for all the children at Whetley Academy.

The purpose of the policy is to advise children on how to get help and support when they have a problem or concern.

## Who can you tell?

There are lots of people you can talk to if you have a problem or concern. You can talk to;

- Your teachers or any other members of staff in school.
- Mrs McAllister, Mrs Metcalfe, Miss Stansfield, Mrs Brown and Mrs Gavins are all trained in dealing with problems and concerns – There are posters around school to remind you of these people.
- You could talk to a friend in school or a sibling in your family.
- Your mum, dad or carer.
- NSPCC Childline - 0800 1111 (Posters are around school to remind you of this service)
- Police – Emergency number 999 (112 can also be used from a mobile) Non-emergency 101.

## Do you think you are being bullied?

Bullying is something that can hurt you on the inside or on the outside. It hurts you on the outside by hitting you and hurting you physically. It hurts you on the inside by name calling or hurting your feelings. Bullying can be done online or in texts messages and this is called cyber bullying.

Bullying is done on purpose, it's not an accident. If someone hurts you during a game by accident that is not bullying.

It can aim to hurt a group of people or just one person and can be done by a group or just one person.

Bullying can be a one off incident or it can happen more than once. The bully/bullies usually do it over and over and over again and they can take away your self-esteem and confidence.

Almost everyone will be affected by bullying during their life. This can be as a child or as a young person or it can happen as an adult in work, it can even be as an elderly person in the community.

The bully could be one of your peers, an older or younger child or an adult.

**NOBODY DESERVES TO BE BULLIED, EVER!**

**YOU MUST TELL SOMEONE AT SCHOOL OR AT HOME IMMEDIATELY IF YOU THINK YOU ARE BEING BULLIED.**

Sometimes your friends can lose their temper and say mean things or physically hurt you. Although the intention is not to bully you, this behaviour is inappropriate and you must still tell someone so the problem can be sorted out.

### **Peer Pressure**

Sometimes children you regard as friends or know in your community may try to get you to do risky activities. This could include smoking a cigarette, climbing a high wall or shop lifting.

When you feel pressured by another it is very difficult to say no. If you do something risky you risk end up being hurt, seriously injured or even worse. You may also end up getting into serious trouble with your parents/carers or even the police.

Stay strong and say no to dangerous activities and talk to an adult you can trust about your concerns.

If you think you or a friend or family member is being encouraged or forced to join a particular group and this is making you feel uneasy, talk to an adult in school or at home without delay.

### Are the school buildings and playgrounds safe?

Every member of staff is responsible for keeping the school buildings, playgrounds and equipment in excellent condition for the children in their care. We also want the children at Whetley to take responsibility for keeping the school both safe and in excellent condition.

Every half term children will be involved in a 'Health and Safety Tour' of the school site to check that the school is as safe as possible. Mr Curtis, our Facilities and Compliance Officer will organise this and Mr Allan, our Chair of Governors will also attend.

At any time if you see anything damaged in school you must tell an adult straight away so it can be made safe and fixed.

Please make sure external doors are always properly locked. If a door is left open, close it and tell an adult. If you see a stranger trying to enter the school grounds or buildings, tell an adult straight away.

## What should you do if someone offers you drugs, cigarettes or alcohol.

You will have the opportunity to talk about this further with your teachers, but the rule is that children must never take drugs, cigarettes or alcohol from another child or any adult.

Please tell an adult immediately if someone has tried to offer you or force you to take drugs, cigarettes or alcohol.

The only person that should ever give you medicine is a doctor or nurse, your parent/carer or an adult in school that has been authorised by your parent/carer to do so.

## Online safety and Texting.

In school we have an internet filter that stops children accessing inappropriate sites. We can also monitor the use of all laptops and tablets to make sure children and adults in school are using the internet responsibly and safely.

You will have some online safety training in class and you have agreed to follow the acceptable use of ICT including mobile phones both at school and home on but always remember these general rules:-

- Remember people that you can't see on line can pretend to be someone else. Adults can pretend to be children.
- Never give personal information to people online without your parents/carers or teachers supervision and consent.
- Never meet anyone you talk to online. Tell an adult at home or at school if someone is asking to meet you.
- If you ever get texts that make you feel uncomfortable or unsafe tell an adult in school or at home immediately. These include texts that are trying to bully you, threaten you or talk to you about inappropriate adult themes.

- Never send pictures or films of yourself online or via a mobile phone without your parents/carers or teachers supervision and consent.

### What are the main types of abuse?

If you are worried that you or a friend or family member are being abused in any of the following ways tell an adult in school immediately. You must also tell us if you feel that you are at risk of abuse happening even if it has not happened yet.

#### AN ADULT IN SCHOOL CAN ALWAYS HELP YOU.

- Neglect – this means you are not being provided with adequate meals, warmth or clothing. It could mean that you are not being taken to the doctor or dentist when needed.
- Physical – hitting, smacking, shaking, throwing, burning, biting etc.
- Emotional – this means someone upsets you or ignores you and this makes you feel sad and worthless.
- Sexual – this may mean touching you in an inappropriate way. It can also mean making you watch or talk about inappropriate adult material.

A person who abuses you can be an adult in your family that you trust and love. It can also be another child who is either younger or older than you. It could also be an adult or child that you do not know very well or even a stranger. Someone who abuses you may tell you that it is pointless telling someone as they won't be able to help you and nobody will believe you. They may scare and threaten you to keep it a secret saying they will hurt you more or someone you love if you do tell someone.

THEY ARE LYING. AN ADULT IN SCHOOL CAN ALWAYS HELP YOU.

## How is school going to protect you?

We will make sure all the adults in school have regular safeguarding training and know how to keep you safe. Usually we can sort your problems and concerns out very quickly within school. Other times we may need to involve your parents/carers. Sometimes we will need to contact another agency for support. This may be Children's Social Care or the Police. Sometimes you have to be very brave to share a problem or concern, but this is the best way to get help and stop it.

As well as informing you who you can talk to if you have a problem or concern, school is going to give you some of your own safeguarding training. The table attached shows the programme of training you will receive each year.

Written Spring 2017

Approved by Pupil Voice

Approved by Whetley EAB (Mr S Allan, Chair of Governors)

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