

Parents and school working together in partnership

We believe that our children learn best when school staff and parents work in partnership. The value of positive and active involvement by parents and carers cannot be overstated.

Your children will get more from their education if we all work together as a team. This means having good communication between school and home.

Please let us know about anything that might be affecting your child. We might be able to offer support or signpost you to other agencies.

This may include a medical condition or if they have had an accident.

Please let us know if your child will not be coming into school on the first day that they are absent by telephoning the school office on 01344 421046. We will contact you if your child is absent and you haven't let us know why.



What you can expect from us...

- We will take good care of your child and provide a safe environment for them to learn in.
- We will talk to you if we see or hear anything that we are worried about.
- We will comply with safeguarding legislation and guidance.
- We will adhere to confidentiality guidelines.
- We will keep up to date, accurate records.
- We will respond promptly and appropriately to any problem that you tell us about.
- We will offer support and assistance when needed.



Making the difference together

Safeguarding

Information for

Parents and Carers

Here at Meadow Vale Primary School, there is nothing more important to us than the physical, emotional and spiritual welfare of our pupils.

For this reason, we regard the need for Safeguarding children from all harm as vitally important.

This leaflet has been produced to provide Parents and Carers information on why schools refer to Social Care Direct and what may happen

Why are schools involved with safeguarding?

The Children Act 1989 requires that everyone who works with children must report any child who is thought to be at risk of serious harm. The Education Act 2002 requires all schools to have arrangements to safeguard the children.

We have procedures in place to do this and a policy that all staff, volunteers and regular visitors must work to. You can request a copy of our safeguarding policy from the office. This can also be found on our school website.

We have four members of staff who are responsible for all aspects of safeguarding. They are **Mrs Forrester (Headteacher)**, **Mr Freeman (Deputy Headteacher)**, **Mrs Styer (SENCo)** and **Mrs Bush (FSA)**. We also have a Safeguarding governor, **Kathryn Evans**, who can be contacted via the school.



What does safeguarding mean?

Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. Schools and their staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. We work with social care, the police, health and other services to promote the welfare of children and to protect them from abuse.

What is child abuse?

Child abuse is when a parent or carer, whether through action or failing to act, causes injury, death, emotional harm or risk of serious harm to a **child**. There are many forms of child maltreatment, including neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, exploitation, and emotional abuse.



Why would school make a referral to Social Care Direct?

All schools have a duty to refer cases of suspected child abuse to Social Care. It is not the job of school to investigate if abuse is happening or not, but to pass on information to the relevant services to investigate.

If someone in our school sees an unusual or unexplained injury or mark, or if your child has said something worrying to us, we are required to make a referral. If we think that your child has been abused, we don't have to seek your agreement for the referral to be made. However, we believe that it is better for your child if we can work together so we will, whenever possible, let you know that a referral has been made and discuss the reasons why with you.

You may feel angry, upset or worried because we have made a referral. Please try to understand that every member of staff has a responsibility to act in the best interests of all of our children all of the time and are not allowed to take any risks if a child's safety is of concern.

When a referral is made, a social worker manager will read all the information and decide what needs to happen next. They will ask for information from other agencies such as school health visitors or school nurses, who have access to information from your G.P.



What will happen next?

After an assessment has been completed, depending on the level of support which is needed, either a child protection conference or a child in need meeting will be held. You will be invited to this. Concerns will be discussed and a plan of support will be agreed and put in place. Regular review meetings will be held to find out if things are improving.

If a referral has been made and abuse isn't evident but there are concerns that extra support might be needed, social workers are able to sign post children and their families to other agencies nearby who will be able to offer you support.

It is very unusual for children to be taken away from their parents or carers. The Children's Act 1989 states that everything possible must be done to help parents look after their children at home and will only remove a child if there is absolutely no other way of keeping them safe.