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# Safeguarding - A Guide for Parents

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## WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

You may have heard the phrase 'safeguarding' before and wondered what it means. Safeguarding is 'the action taken to promote the welfare of children and young people, with the aim of protecting them from harm'.

This 'harm' can occur in many different ways and contexts. Safeguard and protecting children includes:

- Keeping them safe from abuse and maltreatment.
- Preventing harm to their health and development.
- Providing safe and effective care for them.

Parents and carers have an obvious role in safeguarding in the home environment. There will be times when the safeguarding of your child is the responsibility of others, for example when they are at school. As children grow up they are increasingly independent, so you will have understandable concerns regarding their safety when you aren't there.

## WHAT DOES SCHOOL DO TO SAFEGUARD YOUR CHILD?

At school we take safeguarding very seriously. So as to prevent abusive experiences, protect and support pupils, we will do key things, such as:

- Putting children at the centre of a system where they are listened to.
- Ensuring that every individual within the school plays their part to keep children safe.
- Taking opportunities to teach children about important safeguarding issues in an age-appropriate way.
- Providing a safe environment and vigilant culture.
- Responding to safeguarding issues with appropriate, timely action.
- Ensuring excellent staff communication.
- Practicing safe recruitment.
- Supporting pupils who have been abused or harmed.
- Equipping children with the skills needed to keep themselves safe.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

There needs to be a partnership between you and school, with an understanding that 'safeguarding is everyone's concern'. There is no room for complacency. This is essential if children are to realise their potential and be happy, confident learners in a safe and nurturing environment. The following are ways in which you can form this partnership and support your child:

- Ensure your child feels valued, both at home and at school. Allow time to discuss their feelings regularly. Prepare for awkward topics and be honest if you don't have the answers.
- Familiarise yourself with the school Behaviour Policy, so that you understand the school's expectations.
- Get to know the names and roles of agencies that support children of school age, should you ever need them.
- Make your child aware that you are there for them, but that there are responsible members of staff who they can talk to as well.
- Keep up-to-date with current issues via websites such as Parent Zone ([parentzone.org.uk](http://parentzone.org.uk)), NSPCC ([www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)) or Family Lives ([www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)) for example.