



Stillness Junior School

Safeguarding News

Issue 1 – Autumn Term 2021-22

Dear Parents and Carers

At Stillness Junior School, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and our top priority. Anyone who comes in to contact with children and their families has a role to play.

As part of that, we send out termly safeguarding newsletters informing you of safeguarding news as well as providing you with key details around a range of safeguarding issues.

Please visit our school website for further safeguarding information

Safeguarding Leads:

Mrs Mitzi Nichol
Headteacher

Ms Amy Polglaze
Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Zoe Renner-Thomas
Assistant Headteacher

Mrs P Brown
Interim Inclusion Lead

Safeguarding is a process of making sure vulnerable children and young people are protected from being abused, neglected or exploited. If you worried or concerned about a child and/or family please do not hesitate to email the school on kim@stillnessjs.jewisham.sch.uk. Please be assured that all concerns will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021

[Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021](#) is a statutory Department for Education document which all schools must follow when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It covers many aspects of safeguarding including different forms of abuse, early help processes, safe recruitment, how concerns must be reported and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- ✓ Protecting children from maltreatment
- ✓ Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- ✓ Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- ✓ Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Types of abuse:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect

Report any concerns

If you suspect a child is being abused or is in danger of being abused please contact a Designated Safeguarding Lead, or any of staff.

You can also contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on : 0345 050 7666

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999.

**KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IS
EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY**

Online Safety

Using online facilities to help with learning, keep in contact with others and to give some “down time” is part of all of our lives, but it is important that we all know how to keep children safe when doing so.

Did you know?

All social networking platforms and apps have minimum age limits. Some social networks use technologies that might not be appropriate for some ages, or engage with communities that are made up of people much older than your child.

What are the risks of an underage social networking account?

- Many sites include an instant message function which allows private conversations. Not everyone your child meets online will be who they say they are.
- Most social networking sites have an app version, meaning your child will have access to the social network from their smartphone or tablet. **Some app versions of social networks use the location of the phone.**
 - Chat rooms and forums can connect people who are complete strangers and can be un-moderated.
 - Information shared between friends can be easily copied and may spread.
 - It is not easy to take back information that has been posted – and can be impossible if it has already been shared.
 - Chat rooms and forums are one of the places online groomers go to connect with children. They can also be places where people use inappropriate language. This is sometimes done through video chat programmes.

What can I do to keep my child safe?

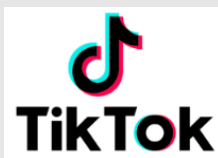
Think about online routines: Have a conversation with your child about online safety and agree some rules to help keep them safe.

Have a conversation about online pressures and cyberbullying: Remember to talk to your child about what they are doing online and who they are talking to. Check in with them regularly and remind them they can talk to you, another trusted adult, like a teacher, or a [Childline](#) counsellor about anything they are worried about.

Set up devices safely: Make sure you set it up with your child, exploring any safety features. Remember to use parental controls!

Keep children safe on conferencing apps: Supervise your child when they use these apps; remind your child not to share chat links or passwords on social media; explore any security features like how to report and block; talk to your child about what they are sharing.

TikTok (formerly called Musical.ly) is a social media platform that lets you create, share and discover 60 second videos. You can use music and effects to enhance your videos and you can also browse other people’s videos and interact with them. **Official Rating 13+**



Due to its content and use, the expert’s view of this platform is that children are at a high risk of being exposed to inappropriate content (such as promotion of drugs, alcohol and crime) as well as bullying.



WhatsApp is an instant messaging app which lets you send messages, images and videos in one-to-one and group chats with your contacts. You can choose to share your live location for up to eight hours with one contact or a group. **Official Rating 16+**

At present you cannot report incidents of bullying directly to WhatsApp.

Remember! You can always speak to your child’s class teacher if you have any safeguarding concerns.

What is a Designated Safeguard Lead?

Governing bodies should ensure that the school designates an appropriate senior member of staff to take lead responsibility for child protection. Key aspects of the “Designated Safeguarding Lead” role include:-

- ✓ Making sure all staff are aware how to raise safeguarding concerns
- ✓ Ensuring all staff understand the symptoms of child abuse and neglect
 - ✓ Referring any concerns to social care
- ✓ Monitoring children who are the subject of child protection plans
 - ✓ Maintaining accurate and secure child protection records
- ✓ Raising awareness of the school’s safeguarding policies and procedures, and ensuring they are implemented and reviewed regularly.

**Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Mrs Mitzi Nichol and Ms Amy Polglaze,
Our Designated Safeguarding Deputies are: Mrs Zoe Renner-Thomas and Mrs P Brown.**

Safeguarding Governor

Our Safeguarding Governor at Stillness Junior School is Ms Emily Mackenzie

The safeguarding governor’s responsibilities include:

Behaviour and recruitment of both staff and volunteers, ensuring the school is following safe recruitment procedures

Reviewing all activity and policy relating to the physical and emotional well-being of all children

Seeking improvement to ensure the school follows best practice in creating a productive and safe environment for all.

Ms Mackenzie can be contacted via the school office on admin@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk

Safeguarding Curriculum

We believe that one of the best ways to safeguard children, is through equipping them with the knowledge and skills for how they can keep themselves safe.

Safeguarding themes are threaded through our curriculum and the enrichment opportunities we offer in school.

Some examples are:

Online safety discussions

Mental Health Awareness Week supported by Open Education

Links with the NSPCC (assemblies etc)

Involvement in Anti-Bullying Week

Themed safety events (e.g. bikeability and bonfire night)

