



Stillness Junior School

Safeguarding News

Issue 2 – Spring Term 2022

"It could happen here"

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

We make every effort to provide an environment in which children and adults feel safe, secure, valued and respected, and feel confident to talk if they are worried, believing they will be effectively listened to.

Our safeguarding policy can be viewed on the school website: stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk. In addition to our safeguarding newsletters. The purpose of this policy is to provide staff, volunteers and governors with the framework they need in order to keep children safe and secure in our school. The policy also informs parents and carers how we will safeguard their children whilst they are in our care.

Safeguarding Leads:

Mrs Mitzi Nichol
Headteacher

Mrs Zoe Renner-Thomas
Assistant Headteacher

Mrs P Brown
Inclusion Lead

Please visit our school website for further safeguarding information

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.lewisham.sch.uk. Please be assured that all concerns will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Peer-on-peer abuse

Peer-on-peer abuse is sexual abuse that happens between children of a similar age or stage of development. It can happen between any numbers of children, and can affect any age group (Department for Education (DfE) 2021a)

It can be harmful to the children who display it as well as those who experience it. Children can experience peer-on-peer abuse in a wide range of settings, including:

- at school
- at home or in someone else's home
 - in public spaces
 - online

At Stillness Junior School we recognise that peer-on-peer abuse can occur at any age and we are vigilant about it. We challenge all inappropriate language and behaviours and follow up on concerns raised from online activities out of school.

We treat all children involved in this as victims and involve parents in all discussions. We complete risk assessments and follow up support from necessary agencies.

We discuss this issue in a sensitive manner through our PSHE curriculum.

Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any concerns or questions.

Having a safeguarding newsletter is important for several reasons:

- The children's safety is our top priority
- We do lots and lots in school to keep your children safe and we want you to know more about this
- We can give some support and advice in case you ever feel you would like it
- We want to share information with you
- Working together is always better.

We have lots of policies and procedures in school that are in place to keep everyone safe. Have a look on our website for more information.

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

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

Our Vision

We are proud of our school. We are proud of our children and adults. We want to communicate this to as many people as we can, in as many ways as we can.

We want to ensure our children and adults are proud of themselves and their achievements, to know they are valued.

We will do all we can to enable our children to understand the importance and joy of learning and encourage them to become self-motivators and independent learners.

We want the outside of our school to reflect the inspirational, welcoming and caring ethos found within its walls.

We will encourage our children to explore, investigate and learn using the whole school environment and wider community. We want them to understand what it means to live a healthy lifestyle and to have aspirations to be the best we can be.

We are proud of Stillness Junior School and we will continually and relentlessly strive for the best for all those in our school community.

How we keep your children safe in school.....

- Online safety lessons
- School values system
- Key locks on main doors into school
- Signing in system for visitors
- Badge ID stem for visitors
- Adults to welcome and dismiss children
- All staff train in safe guarding
- All staff have background checks
- 90% of staff trained in first aid
- Different points to collect children at 3.15pm
- Fire alarm practices
- Safeguarding policies in place
- Children taught about keeping safe
- We mark anti bullying week every November and encourage children to contribute towards school policy and procedures regarding anti bullying
- Core values are used to promote rights and responsibilities. Teachers model these values and hold high expectations around the children displaying them when in school
- Assemblies on the NSPCC PANTS theme
- School rules in place
- Our school council gives the opportunity to learn about different models of democracy and how to ensure we have a safe and productive environment in our school
- Bikeability training
- Local community representatives to support the curriculum such as Police /NSPCC
- Behaviour charts
- We ask questions – never be offended
- Telephones in every classroom

And many, many other things in place to make sure your children are safe in school.

Staying Safe Online

The NSPCC have recently reported a significant increase in online grooming.

- In 2021 there was an all-time high, a jump of around 70%
- Snapchat and Instagram were the most common tools used by offenders
- There were 5,441 offences of sexual communication with a child recorded between April 2020 and March 2021

There can be little doubt that lockdown played a significant role in this, and a couple of important points are made:

- These are recorded offences; it is widely suspected that the majority of offences go unreported.
- Although the most common tools used by offenders to groom children were Snapchat and Instagram, grooming can happen anywhere e.g. it can take part in a game to a private chat within an app or within the game.

Advice: talk to your child. Their online lives and the myriad of games/apps they are using can appear overwhelming, but unless you understand their online lives, the support you can give them is limited.

Use parental controls. All games, apps and consoles come with parental controls such as turning off chat. Many children and young people use gaming for socialising with their friends so if you do allow them to chat, keep a watchful eye on their friends list.



“Every childhood is worth fighting for”

NSPCC Helpline 0800 800 500

[NSPCC | The UK children's charity | NSPCC](#)

Online Safety

Our aim as parents, carers and teachers is to keep our children safe. This is the same for the online world.

We all know that the current world is heavily technology based and this will only get bigger. We want our children to grow up with technology being second nature, however with this we also know how important it is for our children to know safe practices online as well as in everyday life.

At home, sometimes children can be given unsupervised access to the Internet. This, potentially, allows them to access all kinds of society (both good and bad) and bring them virtually into their homes.

We would encourage you to talk to your children about what they are doing online, always encourage your child to be online in a shared area so you can work together.

It is essential to be realistic – banning the internet or technology will not work and it often makes a child less likely to report a problem. Education around safe use is essential.

We would encourage parents to set up filtering on their home internet.

Are all your contact details up to date?

Please make sure that if you have changed your home address/telephone number/email/work number that you inform us as soon as possible

County Lines – Explained

What is County Lines? County lines are a form of criminal exploitation where urban gangs persuade, coerce or force children and young people to store drugs and money and/or transport them to suburban areas, market towns and coastal towns.

IT CAN HAPPEN IN ANY PART OF THE UK

It is against the law as well as being a form of child abuse. Children and young people may be criminally exploited in multiple ways. Other forms of criminal exploitation include child sexual exploitation, trafficking, gang, and knife crime. County lines gangs are highly organised criminal networks that use sophisticated, frequently evolving techniques to groom young people and evade capture by the police.

Perpetrators use children and young people to maximise profits and distance themselves from the criminal act of physically dealing drugs. Young people do most of the work and take the most risk. Dedicated mobile phone lines or “deal lines” are used to help facilitate county lines drug deals. Phones are usually cheap, disposable, and old fashioned because they are changed frequently to avoid detection by the police. Gangs use the phones to receive orders and contact young people to instruct them where to deliver drugs. This may be to a local dealer or drug user or a dealer or drug user in another county.

Possible indicators to be aware of:

- Frequently going missing from school, home or care
- Travelling to locations, being found in areas with no obvious connections
- Unwillingness to explain their whereabouts
- Acquiring unaccountable money, clothes, accessories, or mobile phones
- Receiving excessive texts or phone calls at all hours of the day
- Having multiple mobile phone handsets or sim cards
- Withdrawing or having sudden changes in personality, behaviour
- Having relationships with controlling or older individuals and groups
- Unexplained injuries, carrying weapons
- Significant decline in school results or performance
- Being isolated from peers or social networks
- Associating with or being interested in gang culture
- Self-harming or having significant changes in mental health

