

## Neglect

This involves the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health and development. Examples include:

- Failure to provide adequate food, clothing or shelter;
- Failure to protect from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- Failure to make sure their educational needs are met;
- Failure to meet or respond to basic emotional needs;
- Failure to ensure adequate supervision including the use of adequate care-takers;
- Failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care.

## How will the school and nursery act?

The school and nursery have a designated safeguarding lead, **Mrs Jo Ward**, and a deputy, **Miss Hollie Westlake**. They keep an overview of children's wellbeing and needs from a safeguarding perspective.

Staff are aware of how a child is in their daily life and will share any concerns they have with the safeguarding lead if they are worried about a child's wellbeing.

The most common response to safeguarding concerns would be to discuss them with the parent/guardian and, if appropriate, offer advice or specialist support. We will also, on occasion, refer our concerns on to specialist bodies such as Somerset Direct, the children's social care service.

If you are worried about a child or young person who could be in danger, please contact

- Children's Social Care on **0300 123 2224**
- by email at [childrens@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk)
- or the **police**

You can contact the police directly by dialling 101 and they will discuss with Children's Social Care what action should be taken. In an emergency always contact the police by dialling 999.

### Other useful contacts:

**Parent Family Support Worker:** Nicky Buckler 07825 833556

**Somerset Domestic Abuse Support helpline:**  
**0800 69 49 999**  
or email: [heretohelp@knightstone.co.uk](mailto:heretohelp@knightstone.co.uk)

Wide variety of support services for families detailed on **Somerset Choices:**  
[somersetchoices.org.uk/family/information-and-advice](http://somersetchoices.org.uk/family/information-and-advice)



**Safeguarding ~  
Keeping Children  
Safe**

Mrs Jo Ward – Designated Safeguarding Lead



Miss Hollie Westlake – Deputy Safeguarding Lead



## What is 'safeguarding'?

'Safeguarding' is the term used to describe our responsibilities to safeguard and promote the children's welfare, safety, health and guidance by fostering an honest, open caring and supportive climate. The children's welfare is of paramount importance.

## What does safeguarding cover?

All the staff in the school have a responsibility for the welfare of the children in the school and must be constantly mindful of this. To fulfil this responsibility, we will:

- Establish and maintain an ethos where children (and staff) feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to;
- Ensure that pupils (and their parents/carers) know that there are adults in the school who they can approach if they are worried or are in difficulty;
- Include in the curriculum opportunities for PHSE/Citizenship, which equip pupils with the skills they need to develop healthy relationships, support their peers and stay safe from abuse such as:
  - ~ sexual exploitation
  - ~ domestic abuse
  - ~ bullying
  - ~ pressure from others that can affect their behaviour including awareness of the risks of radicalisation and extremist behaviour

- Take all reasonable measures to minimise the risk of harm to children;
- Address quickly and effectively, concerns about the welfare of a child, working in partnership with other agencies;
- Ensure robust child protection arrangements are in place and part of the daily life of the school and nursery;
- Promote pupil health and safety both in and outside school and nursery;
- Promote safe working practice for staff and volunteers and challenge unsafe practice whenever it arises;
- Ensure that the procedures are in place to deal with allegations of abuse against all staff including volunteers and that all staff are aware of these;
- Meet the medical and health needs of children with medical conditions;
- Take all reasonable measures to ensure school site security and monitor who accesses the site;
- Address drugs and substance misuse issues and other relevant local issues that may arise;
- Reinforce that everyone has a duty to safeguard children inside and outside the school and nursery environments including school trips, extended schools, activities and vocational placements.

## What is child abuse?

Child abuse occurs in all types of family and culture and in every part of the country. Children can be abused by strangers, adults they know or members of their own family. It normally falls into one of the four categories.

### Physical abuse

This may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. It may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates symptoms of, or induces, illness in a child.

### Emotional abuse

This is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child to cause severe and persistent effects on the child's emotional development, and may involve:

- Telling a child that they are worthless, unloved, inadequate;
- Imposing developmentally inappropriate expectation eg overprotection, limitation of exploration and learning;
- Causing a child to feel frightened or in danger, for example witnessing domestic violence;
- Exploitation or corruption of a child.
- Online bullying.

### Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities whether or not they are aware of what is happening.

Activities may involve physical contact and may also include non-contact activities, for example involving a child in looking at sexual activities or encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.