



Eastry Church of England Primary School

Keeping Children Safe in Education Information for parents and Carers 2019-2020

Eastry Church of England Primary School is committed to creating a happy and safe environment for our children.

This leaflet will help you understand how we keep your children safe by telling you:

- How children can be harmed.
- What we must do to keep your child safe from harm.
- What you must do as a parent/carer to help your child be safe and enjoy school.

Safeguarding Children and Child Protection

Child Protection is an important subject in which all staff receives regular training. Our priority is to work with you but there may be times when we have to involve other people. Everybody has a responsibility to keep all children under the age of 18 safe. Eastry Church of England Primary School has a statutory responsibility to share any concerns it may have about a child in need of protection with other agencies and in particular police, health and children's services. Schools are not able to investigate concerns but have a legal duty to refer them. In most instances, the school will be able to inform the parents/carer of its need to make a referral. However, sometimes the school is advised by children's services or police that the parent/carer cannot be informed whilst they investigate the matter. We understand the anxiety parents/carers may feel if they are not told from the outset. We follow legislation that aims to act in the interest of the child.

Abuse/Harm is identified in four ways:

- **Physical** – is when a child is deliberately hurt or injured
- **Sexual** – is when a child is influenced or forced to take part in a sexual activity. This can be a physical activity or non-physical, e.g. being made to look at an inappropriate image.
- **Emotional** – is when a child is made to feel frightened worthless or unloved. It can be by shouting, using threats or making fun of someone. It can also be when children see their parents/carers, or visitors to the home, fighting or using violence.
- **Neglect** – is when a child is not being taken care of by their parents/carers. It can be poor hygiene, poor diet, and not keeping appointments for additional support, not coming to school or being left home alone.

It is advised that ALL parents/carers are familiar with our Child Protection Policy which is available through our website and on request.

A child should be able to go to school and feel safe so that they can achieve their very best.

Eastry Church of England Primary School will ensure:

Anybody who works or volunteers at our school will have had the appropriate checks carried out to ensure that they are safe to work with children and then training provided to identify child abuse and what to do if they are concerned.

- The school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs K Plant, who has had extra training to know what to do when a concern is brought to her.
- That we always listen to you and work closely with you if we are concerned about your child but, sometimes, we may not be able to discuss our concern.
- The school has a safeguarding policy which tells you more about this and when we must speak to the police or children's services. Please ask us about how you can see a copy of this policy.
- We will help your child to learn about keeping themselves safe. Lessons can include healthy eating, anti-bullying, online safety, road safety, healthy relationships, drug and alcohol awareness.
- As part of these lessons and assemblies, your child will be told what to do if they are worried or concerned about their safety.

What the parents/carers must do:

Parents/carers are the most important people to keep their children safe. You should always:

- Feel confident to raise concerns about your child.
- Feel confident to raise concerns about the conduct of a staff member/teacher.
- Talk to school if you need help or support.
- Read the school policies about safety issues available on request and on the school website.
- Let the school know if your child has a medical condition.
- Let the school know if you have any court orders relating to the safety of your child.
- Let the school know if there is a change in your circumstances such as a house move, a new contact number, a change of name, a change of parental responsibility.
- Let the school know who will be dropping off or collecting your child and two other emergency contacts. You must inform the school of any changes to agreed arrangements.
- Let the school know if your child is going to be absent and the reasons why.

Safeguarding Issues

Attendance – Your child's attendance is monitored daily and significant absences are always followed up by the school office or Family Liaison Officer. The school has an attendance policy that you should read and understand and at times, you may be asked to produce travel documents if you are taking your child out of school during term time or for other long periods of time. You may also be asked to provide evidence, such as a GP or hospital letter, if your child has persistent absence because of ill health.

Behaviour – Eastry Church of England Primary School has clear behaviour rules for the whole school community that must be followed to keep everyone safe and happy. We understand that children do sometimes fall out and this will be dealt with by an adult who will listen to the children involved and help resolve the situation.

Bullying – The school takes all cases of bullying very seriously and will work with children and families to try and resolve any problems. The school has an anti-bullying policy that you should read and understand.

Health and Safety – Everyone at Eastry Church of England Primary School has a responsibility to keep adults and children safe within the school environment. The school has a clear health and safety policy which everyone must follow. The school have fully trained first aiders to deal with any accidents in school.

Online Safety – The school recognises that technology plays an important role in the education of our children and is committed to safeguarding children in the virtual world. Parents/carers should be vigilant and ensure that their children are accessing age appropriate social media platforms. Care should be taken that children only access video games and apps which are suitable for their age group. To support parents, the school has online safety information to help keep your children safe both at home and in school, which is available on our schools website and on request.

Complaints – If you have any complaints about how the school is working with you or your child please feel confident to speak to us. The Headteacher will always be happy to speak to you to resolve any difficulties. It is better to speak to us as soon as you have a concern so that it does not become a bigger issue. If you do not feel the matter has been resolved, you can raise your concerns with the Chair of Governors.

Useful Contacts:

Designated Lead: Mrs K. Plant

Deputy Leads: Mrs K Espley, Mrs K Foley, Mrs T Thomas, Mrs N Mellett

Chair of Governors: Mr S Booth

Responsible Governor: Mrs R Smith

Eastry Church of England Primary School

Cooks Lea

Eastry

Kent

CT13 0LR

Telephone: 01304 611360

Email: Headteacher@eastry.kent.sch.uk