Safeguarding at Little Digmoor Primary School

MEET OUR DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS (DSL)



Mrs J Hardwick

Lead DSL



Mrs T Heaton

Deputy DSL



Miss J Schofield

Deputy DSL

"It could happen here".

Listening to Children

You could be one of the adults in a child's life who confides in you and shares their worries. It is important that if they do, you respond in an appropriate way. Children may tell you something that causes you to be slightly worried or it could be an allegation or disclosure of abuse. You must follow the guidelines below. If in doubt, speak to a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

Good Practice / Top Tips

- Keep an open mind
- Listen carefully
- Ask only open questions- if you must ask them clarify the facts, don't interrogate
- Record accurately and quickly using child's words
- Reassure the child that they are right to tell
- Work at child's pace
- Explain what you need to do next
- Pass on to DSL as soon as possible, do not leave the building with this information
- Think carefully about where you listen to children / young people
- Think about how you use your body to make them feel safe / reassure, listen to believed (eye contact, nods etc.)
- Useful prompts which avoid closed questions, examples include;

"Go on you're doing really well". "Tell me what you remember about that."

DON'T

- Make false promises about confidentiality
- Interrogate / investigate
- Make suggestions what is being said
- Show anger, shock etc..
- Forget to record accurately and / or pass on to DSL
- Interrupt
- Assume
- Speculate or accuse anyone
- Tell the child to go and speak to someone else

Alongside the don'ts outlined above, the following things can also get in the way of us taking appropriate action.

- Fear you may be wrong
- Child's attempts to bind you in secrecy
- Unresolved personal feelings
- Not wanting to harm relationships with parents and carers
- Doubts about the child's truthfulness
- Uncertainty or speculate re procedures and consequences
- Not wanting to interfere in family life

YOU MUST ALWAYS PASS YOUR CONCERNS ONTO THE DSL.

Safeguarding Contacts
Children's Social care 0300 123 672 and 0300 123 6722 (out of hours).
NSPCC Helpline for adults 0808 800 5000