

Safeguarding- Frequently Asked Questions- For Parents

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding means:

- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

What is Child Protection?

Child Protection is part of safeguarding process, protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm.

There are four main types of child abuse: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. The abuser may be a family member, or they may be someone the child encounters in a residential setting or in the community, including during sports and leisure activities. An individual may abuse or neglect a child directly, or may be responsible for abuse because they fail to prevent another person harming that child

Who do I contact if I have a concern about a child's welfare and safety?

The designated safeguarding lead at Rayner Stephens is the Headteacher Fay Beach and the deputy is Charlotte Gaskell- please contact school reception to speak with one of them about any questions or worries you may have.

Tameside Children's Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub should be contacted if you need support or advice on safeguarding children/young people and/or if you believe that a child/young person is at risk of significant harm on:

Monday to Wednesday: 8.30am - 5pm

Thurs: 8.30am - 4.30pm

Fri: 8.30am - 4pm

Telephone Contact Number - 0161 342 4101

Monday to Friday outside of normal hours weekends and public holidays

Telephone Contact Number - 0161 342 2222

Can I have a copy of the school's child protection policy?

Yes this can be found on Rayner Stephens High School website

Are staff DBS checked?

Disclosure and Barring service checks are carried out for ALL staff working at Rayner Stephens High School.

What training have staff had?

The designated safeguarding lead and deputy are both fully trained in safeguarding children and the role of the designated safeguarding lead, this training is topped up at a minimum of two years. Members of the safeguarding team have attended specialist courses in to ensure the best support and care is given to our learners.

Safeguarding training for all staff is mandatory, school staff at Rayner Stephens received full safeguarding training delivered by the Local Authority in September 2019, full training is delivered every 3 years. Staff must attend annual safeguarding updates training annually, this is delivered internally and supports staff to recognise the signs of abuse and neglect and how to respond, this was delivered to all staff in September 2020. Key safeguarding issues that may impact young people are delivered throughout the school year.

How do you store and share confidential information?

Rayner Stephens High School store all confidential safeguarding and child protection information via Cura, an online platform which allows confidential storing of information. Information is shared in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Information can be shared with appropriate services without consent if it is deemed a child may be at risk.

Is my child safe using the internet in school?

Rayner Stephens have a high level of filtering and monitoring systems in place meaning our learners can't access content that is not appropriate, the safeguarding team are notified if concerning searches are attempted and this is managed in line with the safeguarding policy.

What support is available to my child or family if they need it?

Rayner Stephens have a highly skilled inclusion team who can provide group or 1-1 interventions dependent on the identified need. As a school we work

closely with a range of external agencies to provide support to our children and their families. We want every child, young person and family to get the help and support they need to succeed as early as possible. This is what we call Early Help.

What is Early Help?

There is strong evidence that helping families early and providing support at the right time at the right place can reduce the likelihood of problems escalating and improve long term outcomes for children, young people and their families. This enables families to move on from difficulty and lead happier and healthier lives.

The Smarter, Stronger, Sooner, Safer Strategic Framework is a statement outlining Tameside's integrated approach to improving outcomes for children, young people and their families through early help. It provides a guide to the workforce on the vision, principles, model, priorities and enablers of early help that will impact on children and families lives.

Early help is morally the right thing to do and can make the biggest difference when support for families is provided before problems escalate. The concept of early help, or early intervention as it is sometimes known, reflects the widespread recognition that it is better to identify and resolve problems early, rather than to respond when difficulties have become acute, and demand action by more expensive and specialist services.

Working with a child and their family to address their needs early can reduce risk factors (the worries) and increase protective factors (what is working well). Protective factors can reduce risk to a child's wellbeing and includes:

- Developing strong social and emotional skills
- Having a strong social support network for the family
- Support for good parental mental health
- Having good income support, access to benefits and advice
- Having access to good community services and facilities

How can I access Early Help for my child and family?

Ask to speak to a member of the school safeguarding team, together with you we can identify what support may be required, it may be that a Team Around the School meeting or an Early Help Assessment is the best approach to get the right support at the right time. For further information on Tameside's Early Help offer please see here-

<https://www.tameside.gov.uk/earlyhelpoffer/parent-carer/earlyhelpoffer>

How does COVID19 impact Safeguarding?

The same principles of safeguarding remain however we understand that the pandemic may heighten concerns for young people and their families, this includes mental health difficulties. Rayner Stephens have developed and updated their policy to reflect any changes that may be required and is in Line with Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance. Rayner Stephens also have a COVID19 risk assessment.

Tameside have additional advice and support services in relation to COVID19 which can be found here

<https://www.tameside.gov.uk/earlyhelpoffer/parent-carer/coronavirus>