



Safeguarding

We all have a legal duty to report any incidents where we suspect a child is suffering, or likely to suffer significant harm.

Always remember:

It could happen here.

SAMWORTH
CHURCH
ACADEMY



Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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What to look out for

- Physical abuse: look for frequent injuries, unexplained fractures, bruises, cuts, burns or bite marks. Listen for talk of violence at home.
- Emotional abuse: the child may be very withdrawn, fearful or anxious of doing something wrong. Parents/carers may blame their problems on their child, give them the 'cold shoulder' or humiliate them.
- Sexual abuse: the child has knowledge or interest in sexual acts inappropriate for their age. They may ask others to behave sexually or play sexual games, or have physical sexual health problems or fall pregnant.
- Neglect: the child may often come to school hungry or dirty or without the things they need like a winter coat. They may be angry, aggressive or self-harm. Listen for talk of violence or substance abuse at home.
- Exploitation: The child may have unexplained, high value items. They may go missing, or frequently move areas. They may be very disengaged with their education, or fearful or anxious if they cannot access their phone.

What to do



- Inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Safeguarding Team immediately.
- Try to pass the child over to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or member of the Safeguarding Team as soon as possible to try to avoid making the child have to tell their story twice.

If the child begins to to make a disclosure to you, make them aware you will have to share the disclosed information and who you will have to share it with.

- You must make the child aware immediately that you will have to share the disclosed information and who you will have to share it with.
- Do not make any promises.
- In an interview situation you are strongly advised to make sure another member of staff knows where you are, or have someone nearby and that the door is left open.
- If you still have concerns ask another member of staff to be present.
- Do not jump to conclusions.
- Do not try to get the child to disclose to you.
- Do not speculate or accuse anyone.
- Be receptive and accessible, listen carefully and take it seriously.
- Reassure the child that they are right to tell their story.
- Write everything down, make a note of the time and the place, keep a copy for yourself and give a copy to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Child Protection Officer.

For more information, please refer to the Child Protection Policy.

Safeguarding Team

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Teresa Pendleton

Designated Safeguarding Lead
and SEND Coordinator



Shannon Pitchford

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Fiona Hay

Healthcare Assistant

If a member of the Safeguarding Team is not available, you can also speak to any of the Learning Manager team, Geoff Riley at Heatherdene, or Alex Noble at the Pavilion.

For more information on how to recognise the signs of child abuse, please scan the QR code:

