



"Safeguarding... Everybody... Everyday"

Who to contact if you have concerns about a child: If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Safeguarding Team.

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999.

If you have urgent concerns for a child, or suspect that a child has been abused in anyway and needs an urgent response, please

contact Bromley MASH at mash@bromley.gov.uk or call 030 0303 8671.

Meet the Safeguarding Team at

Elmstead Wood Primary School:



Mrs Lewis
Designated
Safeguarding Officer



Mrs Sampson
Deputy
Safeguarding Officer



Mrs Arnold
Deputy
Safeguarding Officer



Mr Hemming
Deputy
Safeguarding Officer



Miss Phillips
Designated Looke
After Child Lead

The Safeguarding Team can be contacted on safeguarding@elmsteadwoodprimary.co.uk or by telephoning the school office on:

0208 857 1504

Our Policies: For a copy of our school's Child Protection Policy, and other related safeguarding policies, please visit the safeguarding page on our school website:

[Safeguarding | Elmstead Wood Primary School](#)



Dear Parents/guardians,

Welcome to the first safeguarding newsletter at Elmstead Wood Primary!

This newsletter will be your termly update for all things safeguarding.

At Elmstead Wood, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is our number one priority and it is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes in to contact with the children and families, who comprise our community, has a role to play. Everything that we do has the children at the core. Their safety, their wellbeing, their achievement and, of course, their happiness underpins every decision we make.

Often when safeguarding is mentioned, the immediate thought is about child protection – when a child is suffering harm, or is in danger of suffering harm. However, safeguarding is much more complex than this and encompasses a very wide range of areas in all aspects of school.

At Elmstead Wood, we ensure that all of our staff are highly trained in all aspects of safeguarding and this training is regularly updated and frequently revisited throughout the year. We also ensure that our curriculum provides the children with age-appropriate opportunities to learn how to keep themselves healthy and safe.

In this first issue of our safeguarding newsletter, we will introduce you to the school's Designated Safeguarding Team, provide information from the DfE document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2024, outline key information in relation to the importance of attendance and punctuality as well as sharing some key dates and information with you.

As ever, if you require any support, guidance or further information, please do not hesitate to either speak to me in person or contact me directly.

Mrs. C. Lewis (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024:

Keeping Children Safe in Education is a statutory Department for Education document that all schools are required to follow when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It covers many aspects of safeguarding, including different forms of abuse, early help processes, safer-recruitment, how concerns must be reported and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Click here for the full document:

[Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK](#)

Attendance Matters: At Elmstead Wood Primary, we continue to work hard to maintain our excellent attendance levels and to reduce incidences of lateness. Our whole school attendance for the first half-term was **95.4%**.

Attendance facts:

- All schools must report their termly attendance percentages to the Local Authority.
- Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child receives a full-time education.
- Parents can be issued with a fixed penalty notice for failing to ensure their child attends school regularly – this includes taking a child out of school on holiday- a letter was sent to in July outlining the revised approach. For more info, [click here](#).
- The Local Authority has the power to prosecute parents in the magistrate’s court for the offence of failing to ensure their child attends school regularly.
- If your child arrives after 9.15am we are required to mark them as having an unauthorised absence for the whole morning – arriving after 9.15am once in a week brings their attendance down to 90% for that week.

Good attendance plays a vital role in helping your child to achieve their potential. We also know that poor attendance can lead to other problems for children. Children who do not attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Fall behind in their school work
- Find it difficult to make and keep friends
- Be unhappy at school
- Misbehave so that others cannot see that they are finding the work difficult
- Learn poor attendance habits that follow through to secondary school and future employment

Poor punctuality can also disadvantage children in many ways:

- Being frequently late adds up to lost learning. For example, arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks of the year
- When children are late they find it harder to settle in to the routine of the day
- When children arrive late they often miss key messages and teaching which continues to have an effect on their learning for the rest of the lesson or day
- Poor punctuality disrupts the class and is embarrassing for the child
- Your child being late disturbs the learning of the whole class

*Getting here on time every day really is important in helping your child to become a happy and successful learner.
Every day really does count!*

How can you help your child attend school regularly and on time?

Get everything ready for school, the night before	Talk positively to your child about school	Arrange appointments (where possible) outside of school time	Take a positive interest in your child’s work, including their homework
Show your child that you are interested in what they have done in school	Make sure your child understands why school is important	Children can attend school if they are taking medication-speak to us if you are unsure	Set your alarm and an alarm for your child –see who can beat the clock!
	Avoid taking holidays in term time-this is essential!	We can administer certain medications in school, with parental authority	

If your child is just slightly under the weather, still send them in to school. Children often feel better as the day goes on and they get busy. If school is worried, we will call! This NHS article provides great advice for parents/guardians regarding this: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)



Please also ensure that you:

- Keep in touch with school staff – we may be able to help you with advice and support
- Contact school on the first day of absence if your child is unable to attend for whatever reason and keep in contact on subsequent days
- Make sure school has up-to-date contact details
- Attend meetings about your child’s attendance if you are invited to do so. At these meetings we can agree an action plan so that school, parents and children can work together to improve things

Useful Safeguarding Acronyms and Vocabulary:

- DSL:** Designated Safeguarding Lead
- MASH:** Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
- CP:** Child Protection
- CIN:** Child in Need
- KCSIE:** Keeping Children Safe in Education
- PREVENT:** Part of the Government’s Counter Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn in to extremism
- CAMHS:** Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- SEND:** Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Safeguarding in Our Curriculum: Safeguarding and the promotion of pupil well-being (including their mental health) is at the heart of our ethos at Elmstead Wood Primary School. Due to this, great importance is placed on identifying opportunities within the curriculum for children to learn about safeguarding.

Our broad and balanced curriculum gives our pupils the chance to experience life in all its diversity, to acquire knowledge, understanding and skills that significantly impact on personal development, behaviour and welfare; thus, equipping every child with the knowledge and skills required to keep themselves safe, happy and healthy both now and in their future.

We plan to constantly challenge children to think deeply about safeguarding matters and their own personal physical and mental well being. We value pupils’ questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas, and concerns. We give pupils opportunities across the curriculum to explore values, personal rights, responsibilities, and equal opportunities. This is supporting by working towards being a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. Our curriculum helps children develop moral concepts that impact positively on safeguarding, promote British Values and prevent radicalisation and extremism. There are many opportunities throughout our learning in school to explore safeguarding issues.

Have you talked PANTS yet?



Children need to learn that their body belongs to them, and they should tell a safe adult that they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried.

Since 2013, Pantosaurus (from the NSPCC) has helped over six million parents to Talk PANTS and help keep children safe.

Developed with children, parents, carers and teachers, Talk PANTS is here to help!

Talk PANTS is here to help children understand that they have a right to say no and if they need to speak out about something, someone will listen.

We know that a simple conversation can make a BIG difference, and that’s what Talk PANTS is all about. To help you get the conversation started, the NSPCC can send you helpful tips, advice and materials by email.

[Sign up here.](#)



This summer, the messaging app Telegram made headlines when its owner was arrested. Although it may not be the most popular messaging app among young people, it is considered one of the fastest-growing platforms.

There are numerous risks to children and young people when using chat apps. The graphic here highlights some of them.

What can you do to support your child?

- Check to see if your child is part of any group chats;
- Consider removing them immediately from unknown groups if they are a member;
- Consider reporting the group to the relevant social media platform if there is inappropriate content; and
- Notify the police if you come across any particularly serious or harmful content.

END-TO-END ENCRYPTION Private conversations known as “Secret Chats”, can only be accessed by the participants. This puts children at risk.	SELF-DESTRUCTING MESSAGES A timer can be set when sending a message in a Secret Chat which will then self-destruct/disappear.	LARGE GROUP CHATS Group chats known as Channels can include up to 200,000 participants. This allows for unregulated conversations.	LOCAL CONNECTIONS “People Nearby” connects users locally, but may expose children to grooming and exploitation risks.
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