



Safeguarding Newsletter 2 October 2024

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the school's safeguarding team.

Gemma Jeacock-Stevens

Designated Safeguarding Officer and
Deputy Headteacher



Louise Nash Molly Clark

Deputy Designated Safeguarding
Officers



Karla Weale Kerrie Mason

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to the second addition of our safeguarding newsletter....

It has been a busy and difficult few weeks, trying to ensure the school buildings and pupils are kept safe and secure, following the extensive damage caused by the flooding on Friday 20th September.

We have been busy getting to know our new families and welcoming them into The Milestone Community. It is wonderful to see so many happy pupils at morning and afternoon transition.

The Family Support Team are hosting a Coffee Morning for all parents and carers on **Wednesday 27th November**. Teacher and Communication Lead, Ruby Coulston-Jenkins will be joining the team to discuss our Total Communication approach at The Milestone and answer any questions you may have. **We encourage you to come along for a free coffee and cake at The Chamwell Centre between 10am-12pm, funded by 'Friends of The Milestone'.**

Come along and make a difference!

You will see on the left of this page information about who to speak to if you have concerns about a child's safety or welfare, however all our staff are trained in safeguarding, if you want to discuss any concerns with them. Any questions, please do ask.

Gemma Jeacock-Stevens



Deputy Headteacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Report any concerns

If you suspect a child is being abused or is in danger of being abused, please contact a Designated Safeguarding Lead, or any member of staff.

You can also contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on: 01452 426565.

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

Useful online safety websites for parents:

National Online Safety – safety guides on ALL aspects of internet use:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

Internet Matters – wide range of online safety advice for parents to keep their children safe on

-line: <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

NSPCC – Keeping Children Safe Online: Teaching Your Child about Internet & Online Safety



Sexualised Behaviours

It's important to understand what healthy sexual development looks like in children as they grow. Children now are more likely to see or come across sexual images and videos at a younger age than their parents would have done.

Every child is different and may become interested in relationships, sex and sexuality at slightly different ages. But as children get older, the way they express their sexual feelings changes. It's natural for teenagers to show interest in sex and relationships for example, or for children to be curious about the changes that happen during puberty.

With additional learning needs, it is important to try and understand what the child is seeking from any specific behaviours, whether this be a sensory need, communication need or something else.

Many sexual behaviours children and teenagers show as they grow up are normal and healthy, so long as they're not causing harm to others or to the children themselves. The below traffic light tool is provided by the NSPCC as a tool to help parents and care givers understand when behaviours are more of a concern.

If you are concerned about sexualised behaviours your child is showing please speak to your child's class staff or a member of family support.

Responding to children who display sexualised behaviour

It's important to be able to distinguish developmentally typical sexual behaviours from those that may be problematic or harmful, and make sure children get appropriate support. Always consider the child's holistic needs and safeguarding concerns alongside any sexualised behaviour and follow due procedures accordingly. This guide is a tool to support objective decision making about a child or young person's sexual behaviour and does not replace professional judgement or policy and legislation. Visit nspcc.org.uk/hsb for more information.

Need advice?

Contact our helpline for advice and support:
 ➤ Call **0800 800 5000**
 ➤ Email help@nspcc.org.uk
 ➤ Visit nspcc.org.uk/helpline

Childline

For children who need further support our free, confidential helpline is available 24/7.
 ➤ Call **0800 1111**
 ➤ Visit childline.org.uk

Developmentally typical		Problematic		Harmful	
Hackett Continuum					
Normal	Inappropriate	Problematic	Abusive	Violent	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developmentally expected and socially acceptable behaviour Consensual, mutual and reciprocal Decision making is shared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single instances of developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour Behaviour that may be socially acceptable within a peer group but not in wider society May involve an inappropriate context for behaviour that would otherwise be considered normal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developmentally unusual and socially unexpected behaviour May be compulsive Consent may be unclear and the behaviour may not be reciprocal May involve an imbalance of power Doesn't have an overt element of victimisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intrusive behaviour May involve a misuse of power May have an element of victimisation May use coercion and force May include elements of expressive violence Informed consent has not been given (or the victim was not able to consent freely) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physically violent sexual abuse Highly intrusive May involve instrumental violence which is physiologically and/or sexually arousing to the perpetrator May involve sadism 	
How to respond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although green behaviours are not concerning, they still require a response Listen to what children and young people have to say and respond calmly and non-judgementally Talk to parents about developmentally typical sexualised behaviours Explain how parents can positively reinforce messages about appropriate sexual behaviour and act to keep their children safe from abuse Signpost helpful resources like our 'Talk PANTS' activity pack: nspcc.org.uk/pants Make sure young people know how to behave responsibly and safely 	How to respond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amber behaviours should not be ignored Listen to what children and young people have to say and respond calmly and non-judgementally Consider the child's developmental age as well as their chronological age, alongside wider holistic needs and safeguarding concerns about the problematic sexualised behaviour Follow your organisation's child protection procedures and make a report to the person responsible for child protection Your policy or procedure should guide you towards a nominated child protection lead who can be notified and will provide support Consider whether the child or young person needs therapeutic support and make referrals as appropriate 	How to respond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red behaviours indicate a need for immediate intervention and action If a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999 Follow your organisation's child protection procedures and make a report to the person responsible for child protection Your policy or procedure should guide you towards a nominated child protection lead who should be notified and will provide support Typically referrals to children's social care and the police would be required. Referrals to therapeutic services should only be made once statutory services have been informed and followed due procedures 			