



Eagle House Schools are committed to creating a happy and safe environment for our children to learn.

This leaflet will help you understand how we keep your children safe by telling you:

- ❖ How children can be harmed
- ❖ What we must do to keep your child safe from harm
- ❖ What you must do as a parent/carer to help your child be safe and enjoy school

Safeguarding

This is an important subject in which all staff receive regular training. Our priority is to work with you but there may be times when we have to involve other people. Everybody has a responsibility to keep all children under the age of 18 safe. Harm is identified in four ways:

- ❖ **Physical** - this is when a child is deliberately hurt or injured.
- ❖ **Sexual** - this is when a child is influenced or forced to take part in a sexual activity. This can be a physical activity or non - physical, e.g. being made to look at an inappropriate image.
- ❖ **Emotional** - this is when a child is made to feel frightened, worthless or unloved. It can be by shouting, using threats or making fun of someone. It can also be when children see their parents/carers, or visitors to the home, fighting or using violence.
- ❖ **Neglect** - this is when a child is not being taken care of by their parents/carers. It can be poor hygiene, poor diet, not keeping appointments for additional support, not coming to school or being left home alone.

What School Must Do

A child should be able to go to school and feel safe so that they can achieve their very best.

Anybody who works or volunteers at Eagle House School will be checked by the Police (vetted) to make sure they are safe to work with children, and then trained to identify child abuse and what to do if they are concerned.

Each school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and at least two Deputies, who have had extra training to know what to do when a concern is brought to them.

At Mitcham these are:

DSL – Katherine Walker

Deputy – Lorraine Titchener

Deputy – Lucy Rodgers

At Sutton these are:

DSL – Yvonne Gabriel

Deputy – Ruth Duggan

Deputy – Yvonne Gordon

We will always listen to you and work closely with you if we are concerned about your child but, sometimes, we may not be able to discuss our concern. The school has a safeguarding policy which tells you more about this and when we must speak to the police or children's services.

You can see a copy of this on our website www.eaglehousegroup.co.uk.

We will help your child to learn about keeping themselves safe. Lessons can include healthy eating, anti-bullying, online safety, road safety, healthy relationships and drug and alcohol awareness. As part of these lessons your child will be told what to do if they are worried or concerned about their safety.

What Parents/Carers Must Do

Parents/carers are the most important people to keep their children safe. If you notice anything that concerns you, talk to your child to see if you can find out what is happening.

Remember that, if your child is being harmed, he/she may be too frightened to tell you. If your child becomes distressed or you are not happy with the explanations, you could talk to an adult you trust or call a helpline or children's social care services. Our Designated Safeguarding team at school will also try to help.

Some signs to look for are:

- ❖ bruises or other injuries
- ❖ a change in behaviour – from quiet to loud, or from happy-go-lucky to withdrawn
- ❖ pain or discomfort
- ❖ fear of a particular person, or a reluctance to be alone with them
- ❖ secrecy around a relationship with a particular person
- ❖ alcohol or drug taking
- ❖ wetting the bed
- ❖ sexual talk or knowledge beyond their years
- ❖ losing interest in their appearance, hobbies or family life
- ❖ being watchful, or always on edge
- ❖ having money and refusing to say where it has come from
- ❖ reluctance to discuss where they go, or who they are with
- ❖ becoming clingy

You should always:

- ❖ feel confident to raise concerns about your child
- ❖ talk to school if you need help or support
- ❖ read the school policies about safety issues
- ❖ let the school know if your child has a medical condition
- ❖ let the school know if you have any court orders relating to the safety of your child
- ❖ let the school know if there is a change in your circumstances such as a house move, a new contact number, a change of name, a change of parental responsibility

- ❖ let the school know who will be dropping off or collecting your child and two other emergency contacts. You must inform the school of any changes to agreed arrangements
- ❖ let the school know if your child is going to be absent and the reasons why

Safeguarding Issues

- ❖ **Attendance** - your child's attendance is monitored daily and significant absences are always followed up by the Head of Education or Deputy Head. The school has an attendance policy that you should read and understand. Copies of this can be obtained from the school administration office.
- ❖ **Behaviour** - Eagle House School has clear behaviour rules for the whole school community that must be followed to keep everyone safe and happy. We understand that children do sometimes fall out and this will be dealt with by an adult who will listen to the children involved and help them to resolve the situation.
- ❖ **Bullying** - The school takes all cases of bullying very seriously and will work with children and families to try and resolve any problems. The school has an anti bullying policy that you should read and understand. You can see a copy of this on our website.
- ❖ **Health and Safety** - Everyone at Eagle House School has a responsibility to ensure that adults and children work in a safe environment. The school has a clear health and safety policy, which everyone must follow. The school has fully trained first aiders to deal with any accidents in school. Copies of our policies can be obtained from the school administration office.
- ❖ **Online safety** - The school recognises that technology plays an important role in the education of our children and is committed to safeguarding children in the virtual world. To support parents/carers, the school has online safety information to help keep your children safe both in school and at home. You can get a copy of this from the school administration office.
- ❖ **Complaints** - If you have any complaints about how the school is working with you or your child please feel confident to speak to us. The Head of Education will always be happy to speak to you to resolve any difficulties. It is better to speak to us as soon as you have a concern so that it does not become a bigger issue. If you do not feel the matter has been resolved, you can raise your concerns with Julia Pithouse, the Chief Executive.

Child protection is a very sensitive issue and it raises many questions and a range of strong emotions. We will do everything we can to support our pupils and you can be assured that any action we take will be in the best interests of your child.

Sources of support and information

<p>Child Protection NSPCC helpline: 0808 800 5000 Childline: 0800 1111 Child Law Advice Line: 08088 020 008 Africans Unite Against Child Abuse (AFRUCA): 0844 660 8607 www.afruca.org</p>	<p>Internet safety ChildNet International: www.childnet.com Child Exploitation and Online Protection: 0870 000 3344 www.ceop.gov.uk Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk Think U Know: 0870 000 3344 www.thinkuknow.co.uk</p>
<p>Bullying NSPCC helpline: 0808 800 5000 Childline: 0800 1111 Kidscape: 08451 205 204 www.kidscape.org.uk</p>	<p>Sexual harm and sexually harmful behaviour Stop It Now! 0808 1000 900 www.stopitnow.org.uk AIM Project (for children with sexual behaviour problems): www.aimproject.org.uk</p>
<p>Mental health Young Minds: 0808 802 5544 www.youngminds.org.uk Mental Health Foundation: 020 7803 1100 www.mentalhealth.org.uk Mind: 0845 766 0163 www.mind.org.uk</p>	<p>Parent's Support Parentline Plus: 0808 800 2222 www.parentlineplus.org.uk</p>