

Berkeley Primary School

Safeguarding Newsletter: January 2024

By Helen Earl - Safeguarding Lead

Welcome to our third newsletter. We hope you find it interesting and useful.



Recent news...Online Safety

At the end of the summer term, Helen Earl and Alison Neall attended a North Lincolnshire conference about online safety and online harm. The online world is fantastic for many things, but it can also be harmful. Children and young people may not know they are being harmed, may be too embarrassed to tell, may not know who to talk to or may be in circumstances where they have little or no support. Young people do take risks. Risk taking is a normal part of development. Our job as professionals and as parents is to minimise any harm that might follow from that risk taking. Young people can be at risk of online grooming, online bullying, online hoaxes and scams, sharing nudes, harmful sexual behaviour or exposure to graphic content. We have recently shared leaflets with all parents giving some tips on how to support children using devices safely at home. If you attend any of our Inspire sessions during the spring term we will also share information and ideas about how to set up parental controls. In school, Helen Earl has reminded all staff to be vigilant when children are using devices in school: we have strong filtering in place but we know that nothing can be 100% effective, especially in such a fast changing online world. All children in school have named a "trusted adult" and we regularly update these lists and remind children during circle times that they can always talk to us if they are worried about anything.



Spotlight on...Harmful Sexual Behaviours



On occasion children can display behaviours that might be perceived as sexual. A lot of these behaviours are exploratory and a normal part of child development. Context is key! Some children will display behaviours that may be perceived as sexual, but often these behaviours are exploratory and can start at a young age. An example may be a toddler touching their own genitals because it is comforting. However, it is important that we are aware of any behaviours that may be a cause for concern and require further thought and assessment. Age, stage of child development, surroundings and environment should all be taken into account. We will always talk to the children and to parents if we are concerned that a behaviour may not be age or stage appropriate. If you are concerned about anything you can always ask to speak to your child's class teacher or the family workers.

Do you know...?

We check all visitors' paperwork when they sign in to the school office and we have some new lanyards to help everyone stay safe. Blue means visitors have a DBS check and are safe to move independently around the school. If working with children, they will always be in sight of a school member of staff. Red lanyards mean that the visitor has not got a DBS check and will be accompanied by school staff at all times. School staff and governors have all had full checks completed on them and have a school badge to wear. We have shared information about this with the children too so they can alert a school member of staff if they see someone not wearing their ID.



Useful contacts... Children's and Young People's Services: 01724 296500 (9am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, 9am to 4.30pm Friday), 08081 689667 (free phone), 01724 296555 (answerphone - out of office hours and at weekends).