



## Keeping Children Safe in Education A Guide for Parents

Dale Community Primary School and Stonehill Nursery School are committed to creating a happy and safe environment for 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 to help your child be safe and enjoy school.

### Child Protection

This is an important area 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. Everyone has a responsibility to keep all children under the age of 18 safe. Harm is defined 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 none physical, e.g. being made to look at inappropriate images.
- **Emotional**  
This is when a child is made to feel frightened, worthless or unloved. It can be shouting, using threats or making fun of someone. It can also be when children see their parents or visitors to their home, fighting or using violence.
- **Neglect**  
This is when a child is not being taken care of by their parents. It can be poor hygiene, poor diet, not keeping appointments for additional support, not attending school or being left at home alone.

### Safeguarding Staff

The safeguarding staff for Dale and Stonehill are:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead: Louise Foster (Head Teacher).
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Ruqayyah Azaim (FS Teacher).
- Designated Safeguarding Governor: Anthony Adams (Chair of Governors).

## **Attendance**

Your child's attendance is monitored daily and significant absences are always followed up by Inclusion Officer, Katrina Holness. A healthy child is expected to achieve an average of above 95% attendance and when attendance falls below this amount, progress in their academic achievements can be seriously affected.

## **Behaviour**

Dale and Stonehill have 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 such occurrences will be dealt with by an adult who will listen to the children involved and help 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, located on the school's website, for parents to read.

## **Health and Safety**

Everyone at Dale and Stonehill have a responsibility to keep each other safe. We have a clear Health and Safety Policy which everyone must follow. There are a large number of trained First Aiders amongst our staff to deal with any accidents in Dale and / or Stonehill.

## **E-Safety**

Our schools recognise that technology plays an important role in the education of our children and we are committed to safeguarding children in the virtual world. To support parents, we have online safety information to help keep children safe both in school and at home. We also have an E-Safety Policy available on the website.

## **Complaints**

If you have any complaints about how Dale or Stonehill is working with you or your child, please feel confident to speak to us. The Head Teacher 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 feel the matter has not been resolved, you can raise your concerns with the Governing Body. Our Complaints Procedure is on the website.

## What School Must Do

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

- Everyone who works or volunteers at Dale and / or Stonehill will have a Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) check to make sure they are safe to work with children. They will then be trained to identify child abuse and what to do if they are concerned.
- The schools Designated Safeguarding staff, Louise Foster, Ruqayyah Azaim and Anthony Adams are fully trained in safeguarding procedures.
- 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. Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy tells you more about this and when we must speak to the Police or Children's Services. You can read this policy on our website.
- We will help your child to learn about keeping themselves safe. Lessons can include healthy eating, stranger danger, anti-bullying e-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. 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 (available on the website).
- 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 and / or a change of parental responsibility.
- Let us know who will be dropping off / collecting your child and provide two other emergency contacts.
- Inform school of any changes to agreed arrangements.
- Inform the school if your child is going to be absent and the reason why.
- Inform the school (confidentially) if you have any concerns or suspicions about the safety of any other children.
- Inform school if you have made any temporary arrangements for someone else to care for your child.