



Designated Safeguarding  
Lead

Miss Suzanne Henderson

# Hopton Primary School

## Safeguarding Newsletter

November 2023



Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

Mr Andy Blakeley

### Walking to and from school

There are no laws around age or distance of walking to school. A families' guide to the law states:

*"There is no law prohibiting children from being out on their own at any age. It is a matter of judgement for parents to decide when children can play out on their own, walk to the shops or school."*

Parents are legally obliged to ensure their children get to school and attend regularly, but this in itself does not disallow independent travel. In addition, as a school we have a duty of care for the safety and well-being of our children and therefore offer advice to parents/carers in the decisions they make for their children in relation to safety, to and from school. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

**Foundation Stage and KS1:** Foundation Stage or Years 1 and 2 should NOT walk to or from school on their own or be left on their own on the school premises either before or after school.

**Year 3 and 4:** We would highly recommend that pupils in Years 3 and 4 are still brought to and collected from school by an adult

**Year 5 and 6:** We believe that if children live within walking distance to school and are able to walk a safe route then you as parents need to decide whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking to and from school alone.

We DO NOT expect older children to be responsible for escorting their younger siblings to and from school.

In addition, we will only hand over pupils to known adults. Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless the school has been informed by the parent that they have made this arrangement. We also ask that you keep us informed of any changes in arrangements. If someone turns up to collect your child and we have not been notified, the adult will have to wait until we have verified his or her identity.

If no one turns up to collect a child they will be kept in school and parents/carers contacted.

### Mobile Phones in school

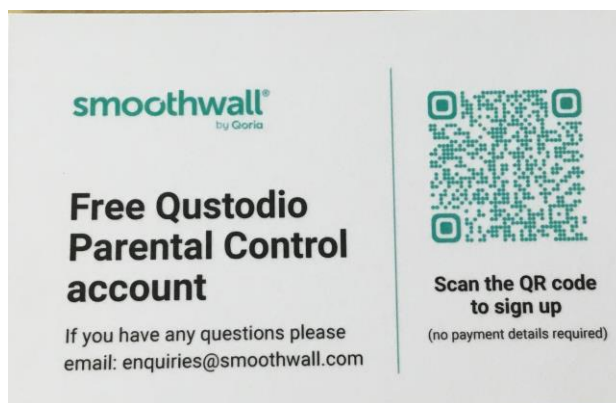
**Pupils:** Pupils in Year 5 and 6 are permitted to bring a mobile phone to school for the purpose of safety when they are walking to and from school. However, they must have, along with their parent/carer, completed an Acceptable Use form and permission form (which they must ask their teacher for when they first bring their phone). They must make sure that as soon as they have entered the school premises the phone is turned OFF and is not turned on again until they have left the school premises.

**Parents/Carers:** If parents come into school for meetings, events, reading etc. we ask that mobile phones and devices are **turned OFF** and are not used under any circumstances. We have had a number of parents during our KS2 parent reading session answering calls, sending messages and scrolling the internet whilst in the school building. For the safety and wellbeing of our pupils this is **NOT PERMITTED**.

### **School Filtering and Monitoring systems**

As part of keeping children safe whilst at Hopton we use a filtering system called Smoothwall. This system filters and monitors all laptops, phones and tablets. It will monitor what activities are taking place and filter out any items that are deemed unsafe and inappropriate. Smoothwall works in a way that it captures user activity as it happens, automatically sending potential risks through to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Headteacher. These can then be acted on. The content is then blocked so it cannot be accessed.

As part of the Smoothwall system in school, Smoothwall have invited parents and carers to have free access to their parent monitoring app Qustodio. The app gives parents the tools to help their child develop healthy and safe digital habits. Scan the QR code below to get access.



### **Safeguarding in our curriculum**

Recently the children have engaged in safeguarding assemblies about Halloween safety, Bonfire night safety, had reminders about online safety and what they should do if they are worried, both at home and in school. Over the next half term safeguarding assemblies will include; consent, anti-bullying, road safety and stranger danger.

As part of Anti-Bullying Week (13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> November) we will be taking part in Anti-bullying activities and Odd Sock Day.

### **Online safety:**

Age restrictions of Social Media Apps-

Please be mindful that social media apps are not appropriate for pupils under the age of 13. Below are the age restrictions for the most popular apps:

What's App—16 years +

Instagram—13 years +

Facebook—13 years +

Snapchat—13 years +

TikTok—13 Years +

### **Safeguarding Focus**

(In each safeguarding newsletter there will be a safeguarding focus which will provide information about some of the safeguarding areas we teach in school as part of our PSHE/RSHE curriculum.)

#### **Focus: Bullying**

Learning to understand and manage conflict is an important part of growing up. Bullying is not simply a 'falling out' with friends. Research shows that experiencing bullying can have a significant impact on a child's life well into adulthood. To ensure we are able to prevent bullying, act quickly when it takes place and avoid misidentifying bullying, it is vital that we have a shared definition of bullying.

At Hopton we define bullying as 'The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to face or online'.

Bullying behaviour can be:

- Physical - pushing, poking, kicking, hitting, biting, pinching etc.
- Verbal - name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats, teasing, belittling.
- Emotional - isolating others, tormenting, hiding books, threatening gestures, ridicule, humiliation, intimidating, excluding, manipulation and coercion.
- Sexual - unwanted physical contact, inappropriate touching, abusive comments, homophobic abuse, exposure to inappropriate films etc.
- Online /cyber - posting on social media, sharing photos, sending nasty text messages, social exclusion
- Indirect - Can include the exploitation of individuals.

Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any concerns about bullying.