



Designated Safeguarding
Lead

Miss Suzanne Henderson

Hopton Primary School

Safeguarding Newsletter

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Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Mr Andy Blakeley

Attendance - First Day Calling Procedures

All schools have a requirement to follow 'First Day Calling Procedures' this is in order to ensure that all our children are safe. It is therefore important that if you know your child is going to absent from school for whatever reason that the school office is informed by 9 am.

Below are the procedures that we follow when a child is absent and we have not been given a reason.

- 1) First day text sent to the first name on the contact list within half an hour of school start time asking for response.
- 2) If there is no response to the text a call will be made to the first name on the contact list within 45 minutes of school start time.
- 3) Phone calls will be made going down the contact list until a reply is received.
- 4) If there is no reply a second text, Dojo and email will be sent to the first contact and, if we have their details, an email will be sent to the second contact on the list.
- 5) If there is no response the office staff will alert the DSL and/or Headteacher that this child is absent and no contact has been made within an hour of school start time.
- 6) The DSL/Headteacher will risk assess the current level of concern and consider whether circumstances warrant a home visit.
- 7) A home visit will be made by the DSL and other school staff before 11 am.
- 8) Contact will be made with the Police to initiate a "safe and well" check if all other stages have been completed and there is still no contact regarding the absent child. This will be through phoning 101.

Although these steps may seem excessive to some, they have come about and are very important due to a number of cases where rigorous procedures were not followed and children had been left in some tragic circumstances or had died.

Please remember that when our office staff contact you regarding first day absences, they are following these procedures.



Using Emojis

Emojis are becoming an increasingly common method of communication for everybody. Emojis are simple to understand, quick to type and can get the tone of the message across. However there are more and more emojis that are not appropriate for children to use are being used without understanding their intended meaning. In order to help safeguard our learners it is not only important to understand the language they use but also the potential emojis they may use. The Children's Society have put together a list of emojis for both professionals and parents to be aware of.

https://healthyschoolscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/DEX004a_Emoji-Dictionary-A5-Leaflet_V2_DIGITAL.pdf

School Filtering and Monitoring systems

As part of keeping children safe whilst at Hopton we use a filtering and monitoring system called Smoothwall. This system filters and monitors all laptops, phones and tablets. It will monitor what activities are taking place and filter out an 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.

Safeguarding in our curriculum

Last week our Key Stage 1 and 2 children had a visit from The Dogs Trust. Our visitor explained the work of The Dogs Trust and also went through some dog safety rules, including how to approach dogs you don't know, understanding dogs body language and what to do if you if a dog approaches them and jumps up or wants something from them.



Safeguarding training for staff

During the teacher training day on May 4th the whole school staff participated in Basic Awareness of Child Protection led by Michelle Stephenson from Kirklees School Safeguarding. The teachers also participated in Racism training from Show Racism the Red Card.

Safeguarding Focus

(In each safeguarding newsletter there will now 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: Discrimination

Discrimination is 'treating someone unfairly because of who they are.' (Citizens Advice 2022) This means that a person being treated differently or is put at a disadvantage because of someone else's opinions or judgements of them.

By law, there are 9 characteristics that are protected from discrimination under the Equality Act 2010.

- Age
- Disability
- Religion/Belief
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage/Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy/Maternity
- Race/Ethnicity
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

If someone is targeted or treated unfairly because of one of these characteristics, then they are being unlawfully discriminated against.

At Hopton we celebrate diversity and through our everyday interactions, in specific PSHE lessons and during assemblies teach the children not to accept discrimination in any form and how to challenge it.