Theddlethorpe Acacdemy

Safeguarding Update   Term 2: 2023/24

WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

The following members of staff are Designated Safeguarding Leads for Theddlethorpe Primary School:

- Mrs Cook (DSL)
- Mrs Bull

They can be contacted via the school office, or by telephone on 01507 353 458.

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For a copy of our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures please visit the 'Key Policies' page on our school website

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Dear Parents and Carers

At Theddlethorpe Academy School, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's responsibility** and our top priority. Anyone who comes in to contact with children and their families has a role to play.

We recognise that all staff and governors have a full and active part to play in protecting our pupils from harm, and that the child's welfare is our paramount concern. We ensure that anyone, paid or voluntary, who seeks to work in our school is safe to do so.

Our school takes pride in offering a safe, caring, positive and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child free from discrimination or bullying where children can learn and develop happily. By sharing these newsletters with you, we hope you will see all of the work that goes in to keeping your children safe.

Best wishes

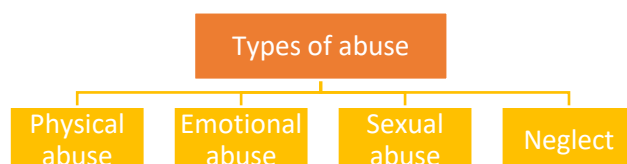Mrs Cook Principal / (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023

Keeping Children Safe in Education is a statutory Department for Education document, which all schools must follow when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It covers many aspects of safeguarding including different forms of abuse, early help processes, safe recruitment, how concerns must be reported and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Click here for the full document.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Types of abuse

| Physical abuse | Emotional abuse | Sexual abuse | Neglect |

Report any concerns

If you suspect a child is being abused or is in danger of being abused, please contact a Designated Safeguarding Lead, or any member of staff. You can also contact https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/safeguarding/report-concern

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999.

Online Safety

Using online facilities to help with learning, keep in contact with others and to give some 'down time' is part of all of our lives, but it is important that we all know how to keep children safe when doing so. We would like to draw your attention to the https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers website, which has superb guides to the most popular apps, games and social media sites, along with strategies for how to keep your child safe when online.

Did you know?

All social networking platforms and apps have minimum age limits. Some social networks use technologies that might not be appropriate for some ages, or engage with communities that are made up of people much older than your child.

What are the risks of an underage social networking account?

- Many sites include an instant message function which allows private conversations. Not everyone your child meets online will be who they say they are.
- Most social networking sites have an app version, meaning your child will have access to the social network from their smartphone or tablet. **Some app versions of social networks use the location of the phone.**
- Chat rooms and forums can connect people who are complete strangers and can be un-moderated.
- Information shared between friends can be easily copied and may spread.
- It isn't easy to take back information that has been posted – and can be impossible if it's already been shared.
- Chat rooms and forums are one of the places online groomers go to connect with children. They can also be places where people use inappropriate language. This is sometimes done through video chat programmes.

What can I do to keep my child safe?

1. **Think about online routines:** Have a conversation with your child about online safety and agree some rules to help keep them safe.
2. **Have a conversation about online pressures and cyberbullying:** Remember to talk to your child about what they are doing online and who they are talking to. Check in with them regularly and remind them they can talk to you, another trusted adult, like a teacher, or a ChildLine counsellor about anything they are worried about.
3. **Set up devices safely:** Make sure you set it up with your child, exploring any safety features. Remember to use parental controls!
4. **Keep children safe on conferencing apps**: Supervise your child when they use these apps; remind your child not to share chat links or passwords on social media; explore any security features like how to report and block; talk to your child about what they are sharing.

How do the children raise any concerns?

All classes have 'Worry' boxes. We check these regularly and discuss any issues with the children, so that they know they are being listened to and their concerns are being taken seriously.

Three mornings a week, at playtime, we have 'Chat and Chill' which is open to all pupils to go and share their thoughts with Mrs Birt. All children can go and speak to any adult in the academy.

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

Worry Box