Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our very first safeguarding newsletter! At The Oak Tree Federation safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and our top priority. Everyone who comes in to contact with the children and families within our school community has a role to play. Everything that we do puts our children at its heart. Their wellbeing, their safety, their achievement, their happiness underpins every decision we make. Often when safeguarding is mentioned, the immediate thought is about child protection – when a child is suffering harm, or is in danger of suffering harm. However, safeguarding is much more complex than this and encompasses a very wide range of areas. Across the Oaktree Federation, we ensure that all of our staff are well trained in all aspects of safeguarding and this training is regularly updated and frequently revisited throughout the year. We also ensure that our curriculum provides the children with age-appropriate opportunities to learn how to keep themselves healthy and safe. With this in mind we will be sending out a monthly newsletter informing you of any recent safeguarding updates as well as providing you with key information around a range of safeguarding issues.

This issue will introduce you to the school's Designated Safeguarding Team, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 and the importance of online safety.

**Keeping Children Safe in Education** is a statutory Department for Education document that all schools are required to 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. 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
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Click here for the full document: KCSIE

## 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 the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies straightaway.**
**If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999**

### Meet the Designated Safeguarding Team:

The Safeguarding Team oversee and coordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe. They regularly attend training to ensure their skills and knowledge are up-to-date.

### Designated Safeguarding Leads at The Oaktree Federation

Mrs Rachel West

Mrs Vicki Brown

### Deputy Safeguarding Leads:

Mrs Liz Fitzpatrick (Firle)

Mrs Victoria Mandy (Laughton)

### Safeguarding Lead Governor:

Mrs Charlotte France-Lewis

All members of the team can be contacted via the school office at either Laughton or Firle or by telephone

01273 858260 (Firle)

01323 811306 (Laughton)

### What is a Designated Safeguarding Lead?

Each school must have an appropriate senior member of staff to take lead responsibility for child protection. Key aspects of the 'Designated Safeguarding Lead' role include:

- Ensuring that all staff are aware of the processes for raising safeguarding concerns
- Ensuring all staff understand the signs of child abuse and neglect
- Referring any concerns to Social Care
- Monitoring children who are the subject of Child Protection and CiN (Child in Need) Plans
- Maintaining accurate and secure child protection records
- Raising awareness of the school's safeguarding policies and procedures, and ensuring these are implemented and reviewed regularly.

# Online Safety

## Does your child know what personal information is?

Does your child understand the importance of keeping information private? Are they aware that by uploading a video or photo online, they may actually be sharing private information without realising? For example, have they (or even you) ever uploaded a photo or video with the following in it: Wearing their school uniform or wearing a local club shirt? Showing their local area in the background, perhaps inadvertently including street names, shop names or house numbers? Celebrating their birthday? Talk to your children, do they realise the potential consequences of posting their personal information? Do they truly know all of their online 'friends'? By sharing photos described above, a follower might be able to work out what school or clubs they attend, where they live and their date of birth. Do you want people knowing this information about your child?

## What are your children saying online?

Most games now include some form of chat facility; this can be via a headset or via a messaging feature within the game. It is very easy within these chats to behave in a way that children wouldn't if they were face to face with each other e.g. it is easier to call another child a nasty name via a screen than to say it to their face. These types of incidents can quickly escalate as online environments are often unsupervised so whereas an incident of name calling on the playground is quickly brought to the attention of a member of staff this doesn't happen in an online environment. Talk to your children about how they are speaking to their friends online. Sit with them while they are playing the game to see how your child chats with others, is it always appropriate? Explain to them what to do if they are called a nasty name, how should they respond and what they can do if a situation escalates.

## Parental controls

Christmas has been and gone; now presents have been opened, we are sure that there may have been some new technology or related games received. We want to provide you with a little reminder of how to set up appropriate parental controls.

## Games/consoles

First, check the PEGI rating of any new games to ensure that your child is old enough to be playing them. PEGI provides age classifications for games and considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty. It is important to note that PEGI do not take into consideration the chat facilities within games. If a game does allow your child to communicate with others then you can adjust the settings so they are appropriate to your child - or disable it completely.

Secondly, for any consoles (new and old), it is important to set up appropriate controls such as restricting spending limits and again managing who they can communicate with.

[Xbox Family Settings: Responsible Gaming for All | Xbox](#)

[Nintendo Switch Parental Controls | Hardware | Nintendo](#)