

# THE VENUE INFANT SCHOOL

## Safeguarding Newsletter 1

Spring 2– Monday 7th March 2022

Look out for our regular Online Safety updates on our Friday update newsletters.

### Why a safeguarding newsletter?

Safeguarding & Child Protection is such an important area for our children that we have decided to have a half termly newsletter that shares key information and advice with parents and carers so that we can all work together with the same aim of keeping children safe in school, at home and in the wider community. Safeguarding relates to many areas of life including children's physical health and safety, mental health issues, attendance, managing medical conditions, online safety, substance misuse, bullying, the dangers of radicalisation, child sexual exploitation, gang culture, FGM, neglect, domestic violence, relationships and health education, British Values and road safety among other issues. By understanding these areas we are better able to offer a safe environment that allows children to be aware of the risks they may face and how to keep themselves safe. At The Avenue we feel it is really important to work with our parents and with the high quality agencies that support schools. We hope that our school curriculum gives children opportunities to explore many of these areas in a safe situation—through PSHE, circle time discussions, assemblies, dedicated topic time and as key learning points arise in subjects so that we can equip our children with the knowledge, understanding and the right tools to make safe choices.

### Useful

#### Acronyms & Vocabulary about Safeguarding

**DSL:** Designated Safeguarding Lead

**PREVENT:** Part of the PREVENT Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn into extremism

**SPOC:** Single Point of Contact (PREVENT) - responsible for preventing children being impacted by extremism

**DO:** Local Authority Designated Officer— who deals with position of trust safeguarding issues

**DBS:** Disclosure & Barring Service used to make safe recruitment

### Who's who at The Avenue:

Mrs Helen Morrall - DSL & SPOC

Mrs Nina Fowle - Deputy DSL, Family Support Worker, Mental Health Lead

Mr Jamie Pell - Deputy DSL

Mrs Louise Lucas - Deputy DSL, SENCO

In assembly on Monday...

The children had a **safeguarding assembly** on Monday which highlighted to them what being safe is and feels like. We discussed, in age-appropriate terms, what is not safe for children and also talked about the concept of trust. The children reflected on how being safe feels and where they feel safe. This will lead into work on their own ideas of their safe place and their trusted adults at school and home who they can speak to if they have a worry. The powerpoint shared in assembly will be available on our school website as will a link to the NSPCC PANTS resource which teaches children that their bodies are their own and how to keep it safe.

[NSPCC Pants Resources for parents](#)

## **Mental Health**

Mental Health Lead— Mrs Nina Fowle

Pastoral Support—Mrs Karen Harvey 'Happy Karen'

As we are all aware, mental health is an area that has been put in the spotlight in recent times. At The Avenue we recognise how the mental health of staff and pupils directly impacts the success an individual may have, both academically and personally.

Mrs Fowle is completing her training as Mental Health Lead and we will be raising the profile further of how we can support mental health in our school community and provide pastoral support that improves well-being and strengthens resilience. We also train staff to identify where pupils mental health may need some support, both from our pastoral offer or from external agencies where necessary. More information will be shared in this area in the coming weeks.

## **What to do if you are concerned about a child's safety or welfare:**

### **Please speak to a DSL in school, or, if out of school:**

If it is an emergency and you think that a child may be in immediate danger please contact the emergency services directly by calling 999. If you need to contact MASH urgently during the evening, at night or at the weekend, please phone our out-of-hours team on 01604 626 938.

If you have a concern about a child or young person, you can contact the local authority Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on the following number:

0300 126 7000

This is the MASH contact number for both West and North Northants. Choose Option 1 then Option 1 again and you will get through to the MASH.

You can also report a concern online via Northamptonshire Childrens Trust's website: <https://www.nctrust.co.uk/help-and-protection-for-children/Pages/report-a-concern.aspx>