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Cam Hopton C of E Primary School – Safeguarding Newsletter

September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first safeguarding newsletter of a brand-new academic year! In particular, welcome to our new families.

As we start the year, I would like to remind you all that at Cam Hopton Primary School, 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 who comprise our community has a role to play.

Everything that we do has the children at its centre. 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. At Cam Hopton, 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 continue to send out a half-termly 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 focus on the DfE document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2024 and the importance of attendance and punctuality.

Many thanks,

Mrs Harris

Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Safeguarding Team

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the schools safeguarding team.



Becky Harris

Headteacher

Designated Safeguarding Lead



Melanie Skidmore

Deputy Headteacher

Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Kerry Whitney

EYFS Teacher/SENCO/SLT

Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Christine Knights

Safeguarding Governor



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 significant 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.

Safeguarding Governor Role

The Safeguarding Governor's responsibilities include:

- Ensuring the school is following safer recruitment procedures when recruiting any new staff members
- Reviewing all activity and policy relating to the physical and emotional well-being of all children
- Seeking improvement to ensure the school follows best practice in creating a productive and safe environment for all

Useful Safeguarding Acronyms and Vocabulary

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead

MASH: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

CP: Child Protection

CiN: Child in Need

KCSIE: Keeping Children Safe in Education

PREVENT: Part of the Government's Counterterrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn in to extremism

CAMHs: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

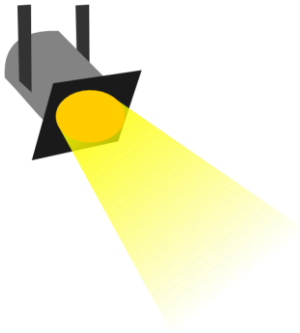
SEND: Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024' 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, safer-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: [Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2024](#)

Spotlight on: Attendance Matters



We are sure that, like us, you as parents and carers realise the importance of attendance and punctuality. At Cam Hopton we continue to work hard to maintain our excellent attendance levels and to reduce incidences of lateness.

Attendance facts:

- All schools **must** report their termly attendance percentages to the local authority.
- Parents have a **legal** responsibility to ensure that their child receives a full-time education.
- Parents can be issued with a **fixed penalty notice** for failing to ensure their child attends school regularly – this includes taking a child out of school on holiday.
- The local authority has the power to **prosecute parents** in the magistrate's court for the offence of failing to ensure their child attends school regularly.
- If your child arrives after **9am** we are required to mark them as having an unauthorised absence for the whole morning – **arriving after 9am once in a week brings their attendance down to 90% for that week.**

There is much evidence to show that good attendance plays a vital role in helping your child to achieve their potential. We also know that poor attendance can lead to other problems for children.

Children who do not attend school regularly **are more likely to:**

- Fall behind in their school work
- Find it difficult to make and keep friends
- Be unhappy at school
- Misbehave so that others cannot see that they are finding the work difficult
- Learn poor attendance habits that follow through to secondary school and future employment.

Poor punctuality can also disadvantage children in many ways:

- Being frequently late adds up to lost learning. For example, arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks of the year
- When children are late they find it harder to settle in to the routine of the day
- When children arrive late they often miss key messages and teaching which continues to have an effect on their learning for the rest of the lesson or day
- Poor punctuality disrupts the class and is embarrassing for the child
- Your child being late disturbs the learning of the whole class.

Getting here on time every day really is important in helping your child to become a happy and successful learner. Every day really does count!

How can you help your child attend school regularly and on time?

- ✓ Talk to your child about school
- ✓ Take a positive interest in your child's work, including their homework
- ✓ Make sure your child understands why school is important
- ✓ Show your child that you are interested in what they have done at school
- ✓ Get everything ready for school the night before
- ✓ Arrange appointments before or after school or during the school holidays wherever possible
- ✓ If an appointment must be taken during the school day, wherever possible bring your child to school before and after that time
- ✓ Take holidays during school holidays and not during term time
- ✓ Set your alarm and an alarm for your child – see who can beat the clock!
- ✓ If your child is just slightly under the weather, still send them into school. Children often feel better as the day goes on and they get busy. If school is worried, we will call! This NHS article provides great advice for parents/guardians regarding this: [Is my child too ill for school?](https://www.nhs.uk/health/a-z/when-to-call-the-doctor/when-to-call-the-doctor-when-to-call-the-doctor/) - NHS (www.nhs.uk)
- ✓ Children can attend school if they are taking medication – speak to Mrs Arkle in the school office.
- ✓ We can give children certain medications with your permission.

Please also ensure that you:

- ✓ Keep in touch with school staff – we may be able to help you with advice, rewards for your child or other incentives for coming in
- ✓ Contact school on the first day of absence if your child is unable to attend for whatever reason and keep in contact on subsequent days
- ✓ Make sure school has up-to-date contact details
- ✓ Attend meetings about your child's attendance if you are invited to do so. At these meetings we can agree an action plan so that school, parents and children can work together to improve things
- ✓ If your child is absent for an appointment, please show the office the appointment card or letter.

