

The Wordsley School

Pupil Friendly Child Protection Policy
(updated July 2024)

FOR RATIFICATION

What is this for?

We want The Wordsley School to be a safe place for all of our pupils. We will always do everything we can to make sure that every pupil at The Wordsley School is safe both inside and outside of school.

This policy is to help you understand what safeguarding means to you and to help you decide what could be a problem and who is available for you to speak with.

All staff at The Wordsley School know that safeguarding means that they should:

- Protect you from harm
- Make sure nothing stops you being healthy or developing properly
- Make sure you are safely looked after
- Make sure you have the best life chances and can grow up happy and successful

All Staff at The Wordsley School will make sure they look after you by:

- Be there for you to talk to if you need to and know who to ask for help
- Give you guidance in your lessons to help you learn how to look after yourself both online and in the real world
- Have all the right rules and procedures in place to help look after you. They will follow these rules and procedures all of the time (these rules are sometimes called policies)

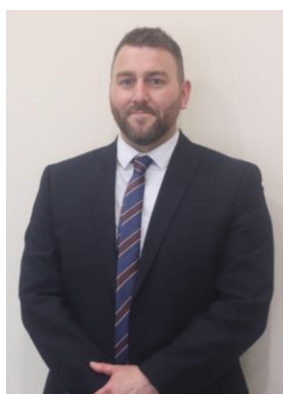
Who can I speak to?

Every member of staff at The Wordsley School is trained and happy for you to talk to them. They will ensure that you have somewhere quiet to speak and may have to make notes about what it is that you tell them; this will be to help you to get the appropriate level of support for your needs. The Safeguarding Team is also always available for you to chat to.

What happens if I have spoken to a member of staff?

It is important to know that staff at The Wordsley School are here to support you, and they may have to pass information to the Safeguarding Team to get the correct level of help for you.

The Safeguarding Team is made up of:



Mr Griffiths



Mrs Ketteringham



Mrs Burgess



Mr Wright-Evans

One of us may come and speak to you if we need more information, or if we need to make sure that you are ok.

What happens next?

Depending on what you have shared, we may need to seek support from Children's Services. This is a team that can include Social Workers, Youth Mentors, Police, Health and Education, who will then work together to put in support for you and your family. It may include visits to your home, meetings, mentor sessions and directed work in order to help address what you are going through.

How do I know if something is wrong?

There are a number of ways in which someone may try to hurt you, upset you, stop you from being healthy or from developing properly. If you feel that something is wrong, come and talk to one of the team who can offer support.

The next few pages will talk about some of the issues and challenges that are barriers to you being happy, healthy and safe.

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Abuse

When someone hurts, harms or takes advantage of you it can be called abuse. This is when someone does something to you that is harmful, unpleasant or painful like:

- If someone deliberately hits you, hurts you, injures you or humiliates you in different ways.
- If someone says or does something that makes you feel bad about yourself or hurts your feelings which makes you feel scared, sad, upset or frightened.
- If someone shouts, threatens, hits or hurts someone you love whilst you are around which makes you scared, unhappy or worried.
- If someone doesn't take proper care of you, you feel abandoned, lonely or neglected. You might not be able to eat or wash regularly, or you might not be able to come to school every day or on time.
- If someone touches you in a way that you don't like, for example touching your private areas.
- If someone makes you look at things or do things which make you feel ashamed, embarrassed, uncomfortable or guilty. They may ask you to keep it a secret or give you presents.

Abuse is never ok and if you are being or have been abused you must remember – it is not your fault. You must always tell someone and they will help you by putting things or people in place to prevent it from happening again.

Child criminal exploitation (CCE)

CCE is when individuals or gangs target young people and force them to carry out criminal activity. The individuals or gangs may force young people to deal drugs, steal, commit violent or sexual acts and take them to other towns or cities (this is called trafficking).

Children who are being criminally exploited are usually threatened and/or beaten by the people exploiting them – but exploiters are smart: they'll spend months or years grooming their victims, and sometimes the young person may not even know it is happening to them.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE)

CSE stands for Child Sexual Exploitation and is a form of sexual, emotional and physical abuse. It often the young person being given food, accommodation, drugs, affection, presents/gifts and money in return for performing sexual acts.

It usually involves the young person being beaten or threatened and intimidated if they don't do what they are asked to do by the person who is exploiting them.

Criminal Exploitation and Sexual Exploitation are never ok and if you are being or have been exploited you must remember – it is not your fault. You must always tell someone and they will help you by putting things or people in place to prevent it from happening again

Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children is unwanted sexual behaviour that occurs between two children (or more) of any age or sex. This behaviour can be online or in person and can be either physical, verbal or both. Examples of sexual violence and sexual harassment could be sexualised comments or sexually touching another person in a way that makes them feel, embarrassed, intimidated or degraded.

The term up-skirting refers to somebody taking a picture under someone else's clothing without that person knowing and is a crime and is never ok.

How can I stay safe online?

Computers and mobile phones help us all to share things and talk to our friends or family, but they can also make it easier for bullies and other people that want to hurt you to get close to you. It is important to know how to keep yourself safe on your computer, your phone and on websites. The Wordsley School has an e-safety policy, which is there to protect you.

If you are unhappy with any comments or photographs you've seen on your computer or mobile, then you can also contact www.thinkuknow.co.uk as well as the Safeguarding Team at The Wordsley School.

There are a number of things which you can do to help to keep yourself and others safe when using technology:

- Don't post any personal information online – like your address, email address or mobile number.
- Think carefully before posting pictures or videos of yourself. Once you've put a picture of yourself online most people can see it and may be able to download it, it's not just yours anymore.
- Keep your privacy settings as high as possible, if you're not sure how to do this ask a parent or member of staff from the Computer Science team, or the Safeguarding Team.
- Never give out your passwords .
- Don't accept friend requests from people you don't know.
- Don't meet up with people you've met online. Speak to your parents/carer/staff at The Wordsley School about people who want you to meet up with them.
- Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are
- Think carefully about what you say before you post something online
- Respect other people's views, even if you do not agree with someone else's views do mean you need to be rude
- If you see something online that makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried: leave the website, turn off your computer if you want to and tell a parent/carer/staff at The Wordsley School immediately.

If someone you know is not keeping themselves safe online, you can report this to a member of staff who will step in to make sure that they are keeping themselves safe.

Bullying

Bullying can happen verbally, physically, sexually, emotionally and online through social media. Bullying is never ok and will never be tolerated at The Wordsley School. If you are being bullied or know someone who is being bullied, then you need to report it to either a parent/carer or a member of staff at The Wordsley School as soon as possible.

If you are being bullied or harassed online:

- Tell an adult you trust if you are being cyberbullied
- Don't respond or retaliate to bullying messages
- Block users who send you nasty messages
- Save abusive emails or messages (or texts) you receive
- Make a note of dates and times you receive bullying messages, as well as details you have of the user's ID and the URL.
- Don't pass on any cyberbullying videos or messages – this is cyberbullying
- If you are bullied repeatedly change your user ID, or profile, and use a name that doesn't give any information away about you
- Visit www.bullying.co.uk – this is a website where trained counsellors can support you if you are being bullied, either by chatting online or by calling their free helpline. You can also find some top tips on this website.

Bullying is never ok and if you are being or have been bullied you must remember – it is not your fault. You must always tell someone and they will help you by putting things or people in place to prevent it from happening again.

Mental Health

Mental health doesn't always mean that you're happy. It is your ability to deal with the good and bad things which may happen in your life.

Sometimes, we may have been through traumatic experiences which have affected us, sometimes there may be something worrying you or a situation that is making you feel upset.

If you are struggling with your mental health, you may feel sad, anxious or worried for a long period of time or you may struggle to find enjoyment in activities which you used to enjoy. You may also find that you are eating more or less than you used to or even sleeping more or less than usual.

You may also have feelings of hurting yourself or others around you.

If you think you are struggling with your mental health you can always speak to an adult in school or access the following websites: www.kooth.com/, www.childline.org.uk/, or www.samaritans.org/.

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Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) gives us a clear definition of what domestic abuse is and recognises that young people can be victims too if they see, hear, or experience any form of abuse.

Domestic abuse can happen in different types of relationships, including ex-partners and family members. It includes behaviours like physical harm, emotional pain, controlling actions, and financial abuse. For it to be considered domestic abuse under the law, both the person causing harm and the person being harmed must be 16 or older, and they must be "personally connected," which means they have a close relationship.

Domestic abuse can happen between intimate partners, within families, in teenage relationships, and even from a child to a parent. Anyone can be a victim, no matter their age, background, or identity, and it can happen inside or outside the home.

Children who see or experience domestic abuse at home can be deeply affected. This can lead to serious emotional and psychological problems. Some children might even blame themselves or have to leave their home because of the abuse. Teenagers can also face domestic abuse in their own relationships, known as "teenage relationship abuse." Even though the law may not always call it "domestic abuse" if the young people are under 16, they still need protection and support if there are concerns about their safety or well-being.

We also receive alerts and notifications from Operation Encompass and DART, who tell us if an incident of domestic violence has taken place at an address where it is believed that children or young people are living.

Prevent

The Prevent Strategy is a plan designed to keep everyone safe from harmful ideas and actions. It helps stop people from trying to make others believe in dangerous and extreme ideas.

We call this **radicalisation**. This is when someone tries to convince you to believe extreme ideas that might lead to hurting others or breaking the law. The people attempting to convince you of this are quite clever and can often try really hard to convince you that you don't fit in, that if you follow their ideas, you'll fit in more, or that something which you know is wrong, is actually right.

The Prevent Strategy helps by teaching people about the dangers of radicalisation and providing support to those who might be at risk.

Honour-based Abuse

Honour-based abuse refers to harmful things which are done to individuals and other people in order to protect or defend the honour of a family or community. This could include hurting or fatally hurting someone because of something they have done to cause shame to a family, to things like female genital mutilation, breast ironing or even forced marriage.

Honour-based abuse takes places across a range of cultures and religions and isn't linked to a particular minority group or religion. Honour is a confusing word to use, as there is no Honour in any form of abuse.

The support that school will offer in these situations will be different from our normal routines, this is because this type of abuse is often happening within the family home and from direct family members like, Mom, Dad and Grandparents. School will work directly with you and special support service called Karma Nirvana <https://karmanirvana.org.uk/>