Safeguarding Information for Parents

Bishop Road is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils. We recognise that some children may be especially vulnerable to abuse and that children who are abused or neglected may find it difficult to develop a sense of worth and to view the world in a positive way. Whilst at school their behaviour may be challenging and we recognise that some children who have experienced abuse may harm others. We will always take a considered and sensitive approach in order that we can support all our pupils and recognise that each pupil's welfare is of paramount importance. Our Safeguarding Policy can be found on the school website.

The school recognises that it has an explicit duty to safeguard and protect children from abuse as defined in the Children Act 2004 and the Education Act 2002. The overall intention and purpose behind the school's safeguarding is underpinned by the fundamental principle of the Children Act 1989: 'The welfare of the child is paramount'.

This sheet gives you general information about Safeguarding at Bishop Road regarding who to contact if you have any queries.

Our Head Teacher is Mrs Powe

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr Emissah and the Deputy DSL is Miss Kingston

Our nominated governor for child protection is Ms Wong

(Contact can be made through the school office)

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY OR WELFARE OF YOUR CHILD, OR A CHILD YOU KNOW, YOU SHOULD ACT WITHOUT DELAY.

You can ask for advice, or report your concern to:

Mr Emissah	**Police**
01179030483	Tel: 101 or 999 in an emergency
Bristol City Council First Response Referral Team	**NSPCC child protection helpline**
	Tel: 0800 800 5000
0117 903 6444	

You can telephone for advice without identifying the child. If the conversation confirms that you are right to be concerned you can then give the child's details. You will be asked for your name and address too, but the agencies will take anonymous calls.

School commitment:

- Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- Ensure all children have effective means of communication with more than one adult in the school by providing suitable support and guidance so that pupils know who to approach if they are in difficulties.
- Give opportunities for class or group discussions of thoughts and feelings in an atmosphere of trust, acceptance and tolerance.
- Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse and radicalisation.
- Work with parents to build an understanding of the school's responsibility to ensure the welfare of all the children and a recognition that this may occasionally require cases to be referred to other investigative agencies.
- Contribute to an inter-agency approach to child protection by developing effective and supportive liaison with other agencies.

What we will do if we have a concern about your child

Where it is believed that a child is suffering from, or is at risk of, significant harm, we will follow the procedures set out on the South West Child Protection Procedures website www.swcpp.org.uk.

The procedures have been written to protect all pupils. They comply with our statutory responsibilities and are designed to support pupils, families and staff. The procedures are based on the principle that the welfare of the child is the most important consideration.

In almost all circumstances, we will talk to you about our concerns and we will also tell you if we feel we must refer our concerns to social services/children's social care. We will ask your consent to make a referral, but in some circumstances we may need to make the referral against your wishes. We will only do this if we genuinely believe that this is the best way to protect your child, and the fact that you did not consent to the referral will be recorded.

If we think that talking to you first might in some way increase the risk to your child, we will report our concerns to children's social care and take advice from them. We will normally then tell you that a referral is, or has been made and we will record the reasons why we decided to follow this course of action.

All child protection records are kept separate from your child's general school file. Records are stored in a locked cupboard. The only staff members who have access to the records are the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

E-safety

The Internet, mobile phones and computers are a part of modern life for most children and young people. Used correctly, they are an exciting source of communication, fun and educational but used incorrectly, or in the wrong hands they can be threatening and dangerous.

Although young people may use anonymity websites and apps for harmless reasons they can also pose risks, including:

- **Cyberbullying**
  Users can post anonymously and children may feel particularly scared if they don't know who is bullying them.

- **Inappropriate content**
  Because they're anonymous, it's very difficult to hold users to account. So it can be easier for children to access content that may be upsetting or unsuitable for their age – such as content that promotes self-harm.

- **Inappropriate behaviour**
  Children may be drawn into saying and doing things they would never do offline, because the behaviour of other users and the anonymity makes it seem OK. For example, things can get out of hand when children are using the site in groups and giving each other dares.

Talking to your child is one of the best ways to keep them safe. You can also use parental controls on social networks, online games and browsers and on both hardware and software that can filter or monitor what your child can see. Preventing your children from using the internet or mobile phones won't keep them safe in the long run, so it's important to have conversations that help your child understand how to stay safe and what to do if they ever feel scared or uncomfortable.

Here are some tips to help you to manage the risks.
- Try to put the computer in a family room where it will be easier for you to supervise your child's online activity.
- Explain the risks to your child when you first allow them to have a mobile phone or any laptop or portable device with a camera or internet access.
- Explain what cyber-bullying is and impress on your child that sending hurtful or abusive emails or texts could be serious. Ensure your child knows that they can talk to you if they receive hurtful or abusive messages.
- Ensure that your child knows they should never give their full name, address and contact details to people they chat to on the internet.
- Gently explain that some people they talk to on the internet may not be who they say they are and might say or do unpleasant or hurtful things.

- Investigate whether the 'parental controls' available from some internet service providers will be helpful.
- Consider installing software that can filter out inappropriate material.
- Talk to your child about their internet use. Ask them which sites they enjoy most, and why. Show you are interested, while understanding their need for some privacy.
- Impress on your child that they can talk to you if they are worried about something that has happened during their internet use.
- Make it very clear that your child must never arrange to meet someone they have chatted to online without your permission. Their new 'friend' might well be a local young person of similar age, but they might not.
- Explain to your child how to use the 'Report Abuse' button which is available on an increasing number of websites.

You may be alerted to question your child's online activity if they are:
- spending more and more time on the internet
- being secretive – reluctant to talk about their internet activity, closing the screen page when you are close by
- spending less time with the family, or giving up previous hobbies and interests
- losing interest in their schoolwork, regularly failing to complete homework
- starting to talk about 'new friends' that you have not met and who do not visit your home
- overly possessive of their mobile phone or computer – perhaps overreacting if someone picks it up or asks to borrow it
- showing fear or discomfort when their phone rings, or quickly turning it off without answering
- undergoing a change in personality that you cannot attribute to any obvious cause.

If you are still concerned contact one of the helping agencies listed below:

Police
Tel: 101 (emergency 999)

NSPCC child protection helpline
Tel: 0808 800 5000