



What is this?

ExpansE school has a Safeguarding Policy for staff, families and governors. This 'child friendly' policy is designed for young people and this should be read as a guide to the main policy.



What is it for?

To help you decide what could be a 'problem' and where to get help and support. It is really important that you know who you can talk to and also to understand why you might need to talk to someone.



What is a DSL?

You might have seen or heard the phrase DSL, but what does it mean?

DSL stands for Designated Safeguarding Lead. In every school there is always somebody who has the responsibility to keep you safe and all staff must tell that person if they are worried about you. Staff have training and are taught how to keep children safe as it is the most important part of their job.

It is the job of everyone that works at your school to keep you safe so remember you can talk to any adult that you trust.



Is someone bullying you?

You must tell someone at school so we can help you.



Saying funny things to you

Has someone said something to you or have you heard something that you do not like or upsets you?

You must tell someone at the school so we can help you.



Touching you

It is not okay for someone to touch you and make you feel uncomfortable. People who do things like this can tell you things to frighten you and make sure you don't tell anyone. You must tell someone at school so we can help you, it is not your fault and you will be taken care of and supported.



Trying to give you tablets, cigarettes, drugs or alcohol

Has someone asked you if you want a tablet or to smoke a cigarette, or have a drink of something and you do not know what it is?

Do not eat, drink or smoke what they are giving you.



Hitting, punching or smacking you

Has someone hit, punched or smacked you or hurt you in any way? You must tell someone at the school so we can help you.

Most importantly you do NOT have to keep your worries a secret!

Examples of people you can tell are:

- Teachers
- Pastoral Staff
- Headteacher
- Teaching Assistants.

If in doubt, talk to someone. There are many staff at school for you to talk to and they will help and support you.





The four main areas of Child Protection concerns are:

- 1. Physical Abuse** – hitting, smacking, shaking, throwing, burning, biting.
- 2. Sexual Abuse** – be aware this doesn't always mean actually touching a child. It could be someone making you watch things to do with sex or encouraging you to act in an inappropriate way.
- 3. Neglect** – this means things like not providing meals or warmth or clothing. Or perhaps not taking you to the Doctors when you need to go. There may be lots of different reasons why a child is neglected and it is really important that we know so we can help.
- 4. Emotional Abuse** – This means when someone upsets you or makes you feel bad. If someone in your family says horrible things to you and makes you feel sad and worthless.

These are just a few examples for you and if you think you may have a problem that is similar to one of these then talk to a member of staff.



How does our school work to protect children?

There are lots of different ways, but one of the main ways is making sure the staff here at school know how to keep you safe and also make sure you have someone to talk to if you need to.

All staff are here to support young people and their families if there is a concern.

Safeguarding and Child Protection mean the same thing and they mean that we look after young people like you and keep them safe.

TALK TO SOMEONE - If you are upset or worried about something that has happened to you or someone else then please remember you can talk to someone who will listen to you and help you.



What are the next steps?

Sometimes a member of staff at your school will need to check things with your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and then if your school can deal with the issue themselves, they will. Please try and understand that staff and the DSL will only want to help you and make you feel supported and better about the situation.

There are times though when they may need to contact some other agencies for support. These may be Children's Social Care (Social Workers) or Police. This is because schools can't do everything on their own and need to work with other professionals who are best placed to help with arranging other things. It might sound a little bit scary, but the Social Workers and Police will be specialist trained professionals who are great at helping children and young people.

There are lots of other agencies who support children and their families as well. Your DSL will talk to you and explain all of this and you can always go and ask them questions if you are unsure about anything.

If you have any questions about this policy, then please speak to one of the people listed below:

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Lisa Heyes

Designated Safeguarding Officers – Ed Hanley, Richard King, Dawn Watson, Lhiana Brown.

You can always speak to any member of staff in your school who will be able to support you.

Most importantly you do NOT have to keep your worries a secret!

