



Hillcross Primary School

SAFEGUARDING and CHILD PROTECTION POLICY (Child Version)

Revised September 2025

Updated in line with KCSIE guidance 2025, effective from 1st September 2025

Introduction

Everyone at Hillcross takes seriously their responsibility to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children, and to work together to identify and support any children who are suffering harm.

We want all children to feel safe and secure. They are encouraged to talk about any concerns or worries they have and will always be listened to.

Safeguarding Statement

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

- It could happen here.
- It probably is happening here.
- It is never accepted and will not be tolerated.

If you have any concerns about the health or safety of anyone you know, or feel that something may be troubling them, you must report it!

Even if you think your concern is minor, you must speak to a trusted adult or Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) . It is always your responsibility to share concerns, no matter how small.

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)

The DSLs have responsibility for child protection and safeguarding children:. **The people you should talk to are:**



The Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Name: Lisa Francis

Her office is in the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Area.



Assistant Headteacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding (DDSL)

Name: Steph Mayar

Her office is in the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Area.



Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Name: Lee Christy

Yr 6 Maple Teacher



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Assistant Headteacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Name: Tanja Doig
Yr 4 Oak Teacher

Safeguarding is the actions we take to protect children (and adults), to provide safe and effective care and to prevent them from being harmed. It relates to all aspects of school life including:

- **Having safe staff in school** - all staff working within our school have had a safeguarding check (lanyard system) and have regular safeguarding training.
- **Health and safety** - ensuring the building and school site is safe (site security, fire safety, safe and secure procedure), carrying out risk assessments, making sure there are filtering and monitoring systems in place that reduce the risk of children accessing inappropriate online content.
- **Curriculum** - teaching children about safeguarding e.g. how to develop healthy relationships, how to stay safe online (including mobile devices and social media), how to access emergency services, basic first aid and road safety.
- **Attendance**
- Promoting **Well-being** and **Positive Mental Health**
- Upholding **Behaviour** and **Anti-bullying** policies and procedures
- Meeting the needs of children with **medical conditions** and providing **first aid**

What is child abuse and neglect?

Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by not acting to prevent them from being harmed. Children may be abused in a family, by someone they know or by a stranger. They may be abused by one or more people, by adults or another child/ren.

Child Protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. It refers to the specific things that are done to protect children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

Social Care/Social Workers are people who work with children and families to help to keep them safe.

Confidentiality and Sharing Information

All matters relating to child protection will be treated as confidential and only shared on a need to know basis. However, we must report concerns and will not keep secrets that might risk a person's safety or wellbeing - even if they are our friend.

DSLs will only disclose information about a child/family to other agencies if they need help to keep them safe.

Equality

All children (and adults) regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity have equal rights to protection.

Additional Advice and Support for children

- [Childline](#) for free and confidential advice
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) to report and remove harmful online content
- [CEOP](#) for advice on making a report about online abuse



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The following information is accessible for children in specific year groups, depending upon when the content has been covered within the curriculum.

- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5
- Year 6

Types and aspects of Abuse - look at the titles to find the information you need

Physical abuse

Physical abuse involves causing physical harm to a child or may also be caused when a parent or carer makes up the symptoms of illness, or deliberately makes a child unwell.

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse may involve persistently making a child feel that they are worthless, unloved or inadequate. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children.

These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another.

It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur in isolation.

Sexual abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

NSPCC research has highlighted the following examples of the neglect of children under 12 years old:

- frequently going hungry
- frequently having to go to school in dirty clothes
- regularly having to look after themselves because of parents being away or having problems such as drug or alcohol misuse
- being abandoned or deserted
- living at home in dangerous physical conditions



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- not being taken to the doctor when ill
- not receiving dental care.

Specific Safeguarding Issues - look at the titles to find the information you need

Child on Child Abuse

The forms of child on child abuse are:

- Bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying).
- Physical abuse which can include hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm.
- Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment.
- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and/or videos.
- Forcing them to behave in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Upskirting which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission,

It will not be passed off as 'banter', 'boys being boys', 'girls being girls' or 'part of growing up', and staff will challenge inappropriate behaviour between children. Any downplaying of certain conduct can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviour which will lead to children not reporting or normalising abuse causing an unsafe environment.

Online Safety

Children increasingly use electronic equipment, including at home, on a daily basis to access the internet, share and view content and images via social media sites such as Facebook, twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and Voodoo and for online gaming. Some adults and other children use these technologies to harm children or children may also be distressed or harmed by accessing inappropriate material.

Pupils are taught about online safety throughout the curriculum. The school online safety leader is **Lee Christy (AHT/Deputy DSL)**.

Radicalisation and Extremism

Some children are at risk of being radicalised; adopting beliefs and engaging in activities which are harmful, criminal or dangerous. This can happen both online and offline.

The school seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism in a range of ways but specially through their involvement in the BREE project and opportunities are provided in the curriculum to enable pupils to discuss issues of religion, ethnicity and culture. The school have their own values and promote fundamental British Values (as defined by the DfE).

Extremism is the demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence and foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse involves the use of power and control by one person over another. Slapping, punching, kicking, bruising, ridicule, constant criticism, threats, manipulation, sleep deprivation, social isolation, and other controlling behaviours all count as abuse. Living in a home where domestic abuse takes place is harmful to children and can have a serious impact on their behaviour and wellbeing.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)



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Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse and occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child in sexual activity. At Hillcross the risks of sexual exploitation is included in the SRE curriculum. Pupils will be informed of the grooming process and how to protect themselves from people who may potentially be intent on causing harm. They will be supported in terms of recognising and assessing risk in relation to CSE, including online, and knowing how and where to get help.

Child Criminal Exploitation & Gangs

There are a number of areas in which young people are put at risk by gang activity, both through participation in, and as victims of, gang violence. The risk or potential risk of harm to the child may be as a victim, a gang member or both.

Sharing Nudes and semi-nudes (and upskirting)

The practice of children sharing nudes and semi nudes and videos via text message, email, social media or mobile messaging apps involving anyone under the age of 18 is unlawful.

Upskirting is also a criminal act in the UK. This is when a camera or mobile phone is put beneath a person's clothing to take a photograph without their permission.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is illegal in England and Wales. It is a form of child abuse and violence against women.

Private Fostering Arrangements

A private fostering arrangement occurs when someone other than a parent or close relative cares for a child for a period of 28 days or more, with the agreement of the child's parents. It applies to children under the age of 16 years old or 18 years old if the child is disabled.

By law persons involved in making a private fostering arrangement must notify Children's Social Care as soon as possible.

Contextual Safeguarding - Risks Outside of the home

Children may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from influences outside of their families, from within their peer groups, from within the wider community and/or online.