

## Safeguarding at Shamblehurst

Within school we have four Safeguarding leads. These are Mrs Jones, Mrs Mohamed, Miss Edwards and Mrs Curry.

The following information is based on Hampshire County Councils procedures, some of our families fall under Southampton City Council.

Their procedures vary slightly but the support remains the same.

What sort of concerns do we have in school?

- Children playing games which are not age appropriate.
- Children watching TV that is not appropriate.
- Children stating that home is not safe e.g. saying that they are alone.
- Children saying that their grown up has hurt them or each other.
- Inappropriate use of Social Media, specifically around children having apps which are age restricted e.g. WhatsApp/TikTok.
- Inappropriate use of mobile phones or the internet.
- Persistently absent or late for school.
- Inability to contact parents.
- Mental health of child or parent.
- Anti-social behaviour either witnessed or reported to us from children in our school or their wider families.
- Third party referrals – these can be from neighbours/members of the community etc. and are always treated confidentially.
- An escalation or change in a child's behaviour in school or at home.

If a child discloses anything that concerns us or mentions any of the above, we will either phone parents/carers or we may refer directly to children's services.

The decision about whether to refer directly to Children's Services or whether to phone parents/carers lies with in the school. This is never one person's decision. DSL's will carry out a professional conversation where a decision will be made regarding the next steps.

As a school, we may notify parents of the decision to contact Social Services but we do not always have a conversation with parents. Again, this decision is made at school level and is always discussed professionally. There are several reasons why a referral is not shared with parents and this always comes from a place of ensuring the children or

family are not put at further harm. Once a referral has been made, the family may have contact from Children's Services. We then receive notification as to whether any support has been offered and what the support is.

Level 3 - Targeted Early Help The MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Team) team may make contact with you to assess the situation. A child and Family Assessment is often completed. This can take for up to 45 days. This will determine what, if any, support is put in place. Level 3 support may be suggested at this point and the case could be heard at the Early Help Hub (EHH). In some cases, a Family Support Worker may be allocated. Sometimes a TAF (Team Around the Family) meeting will be arranged. Mrs Curry will attend this from school and share our thoughts on the situation.