

# Safeguarding Newsletter

**Downsell**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



## WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Lead: Rachael Alexander-Gordon or a Designated Safeguarding Officer:

- Deanna Williams
- Deena Chetty

They can be contacted via the school office:

**school@downsellprimary.waltham.sch.uk**

or by telephone on **0208 556 0103**.

You can also contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on:

**0208 496 2310**

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999.



## Issue 1

Welcome to our first safeguarding newsletter!

Each of our newsletters will keep you up to date with the latest safeguarding issues in and out of school.

This first issue focusses on safeguarding within the school, online safety / social media safeguarding and keeping safe on the road throughout the winter months.

Downsell Primary School

# WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

Children should be free from harm or danger; it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that they are.

Safeguarding means protecting children from harm and acting on concerns for a child's safety and wellbeing. Harm is ill treatment or child abuse. This includes physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect.

## **Physical abuse**

Physical abuse is deliberately hurting a child causing injuries such as bruises, broken bones, burns or cuts. It isn't accidental - children who are physically abused suffer violence such as being hit, kicked, poisoned, burned, slapped or having objects thrown at them. It can be when someone deliberately induces illness in a child.

## **Emotional abuse**

Emotional abuse is the ongoing emotional maltreatment or emotional neglect of a child. It may involve making a child feel constantly worthless or unloved, frightened or in danger. Children who are emotionally abused are usually suffering another type of abuse or neglect at the same time – but this isn't always the case.

## **Sexual abuse**

A child is sexually abused when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities. This doesn't have to be physical contact and it can happen online. Sometimes the child won't understand that what's happening to them is abuse. They may not even understand that it's wrong. In most cases sexual abuse is carried out by a person who is known to the child even a member of their own family.

## **Neglect**

Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and is the most common form of child abuse. A child may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care. A child may be put in danger or not protected from physical or emotional harm. They may not get the love, care and attention they need from their parents.



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***Respect Responsibility Resilience***

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# WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

Downsell Primary School has procedures in place to safeguard children and a policy that all staff, volunteers and regular visitors must work to. A copy can be found on the school website.

There are several members of staff who form the safeguarding team, with Miss Rachael Alexander-Gordon, our Deputy Head Teacher, leading as Designated Safeguarding Lead.

We also have a named Governor responsible for Safeguarding: Mr David Backhouse



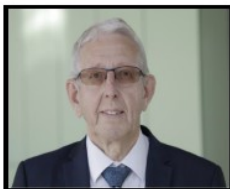
## Safeguarding Team



Mr Deena Chetty  
Headteacher



Miss Rachael Alexander-Gordon  
Deputy Headteacher  
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mr David Backhouse  
Chair of Governors  
Link Governor for:  
Safeguarding and Attendance  
Behaviour  
Looked after children



Mrs Deanna Williams  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Learning Mentor



Mrs Karen Hodges  
Out of hours Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
SEND Teaching Assistant

## What will happen if the school has a concern about your child?

If school has a concern that your child is, or may be, suffering harm within or outside the school we will act according to our statutory duty to protect your child from any harm or danger. All schools have a duty to refer cases if they have a safeguarding concern.

## What does this mean? What concerns may we have for your child?

- If someone at our school sees an unusual or unexplained injury or mark
- If your child has said something worrying us
- If their behaviour is out of the ordinary

or if there is any other reason we feel your child may be suffering harm outside of school, we have a legal duty to make a referral.

It is always in the best interests of your child if we can work together.

Where possible we will seek to discuss safeguarding concerns with you first and inform you if a referral has been made / needs to be made. However, there are times when we are advised not to do this at first. We ask that on these occasions you are understanding to our need to seek and follow advice from MASH.



## NETFLIX'S SQUID GAME

The following information is taken from National Online Safety

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



### WHAT IS SQUID GAME?

Netflix's Squid Game is set to become the streaming service's most successful show of all time, with huge numbers of viewers taking to social media to discuss each new episode. The South Korean thriller features some scenes of fairly brutal violence and is rated 15 by the BBFC. It follows a group of adults who compete to win innocent-looking playground games, but who are killed if they do not succeed at the tasks.

An unexpected success in terms of viewing figures, Squid Game's popularity is beginning to spread across various online platforms. There has been a slew of content created – ranging from memes to apps – that convey the violence of the show, so it is important for parents, carers and educators to understand the basis of Squid Game and the potential risks to young people who might be exposed to it.

### What are the hazards for children?

Squid Game's 15 rating has not prevented clips and images from the show being uploaded onto social media sites such as TikTok, with the #SquidGame hashtag being viewed more than 22.8 billion times. There have been reports of children who have accounts on these platforms inadvertently viewing gory, explicit scenes from the programme, and parents and carers should be mindful of the prevalence of these uploads.

The popularity of the programme has also led to online challenges based on various scenes, which see people taking part in seemingly innocent children's games. On the show, however, characters are executed if they fail in the game – and videos of people pretending to kill each other after competing in Squid Game-style contests are going viral on social media, where they are easily accessible to children.

### What is the Squid Game Challenge app?

Squid Game Challenge (also known as K-Game Challenge) is an app for smartphones and tablets that has been released for Android and iOS, and the two systems differ significantly on their age ratings for the game. The iTunes Store rates the app as 12+ (advising of "mild/infrequent horror/fear themes"), while the PEGI rating for Android is just 3+, which means that very young children might be able to download and play the game even with parental controls activated on their device or through Google Play.

### What can trusted adults do?

As a parent or carer, keep a watchful eye on the content that your children are viewing. Speak to them openly and chat about how they have been spending time on their devices; let them ask questions, too. Ensure that the parental controls are activated on your child's device and that age-restricted child profiles are properly set up any on-demand services available through the family TV (such as Netflix, in this case) to prevent inappropriate content being streamed.

If you see your child replicating the challenges from the show or hear them talking about scenes and characters from Squid Game, it would be a timely opportunity to discuss with them that the programme is not intended for children, that much of the content would be inappropriate for their age, and that the violence in the series is very realistic and often upsetting.



## KEEPING SAFE ON THE ROADS

As the days get darker earlier, please keep safe as you walk home from school or go out in the evenings.

### Keep seen and safe

High visibility clothing is an effective way to stay visible to other road users.

Wearing reflective clothing on the body – in particular on the body parts which move such as gloves or shoes, can help you keep seen and safe.

Furthermore, adding a reflective strip on a backpack or jacket increases your visibility too. An extra suggestion is for cyclists to wear a rear light on their backpack or on their helmet. This has the benefit of being at eye level for drivers approaching them on the road behind.



## HALLOWEEN

We know how much fun Halloween can be but remember to stay safe!

Follow these top tips from North Yorkshire police on how to stay safe this Halloween.

*Respect  
Responsibility  
Resilience*

**ARE YOU A SMART TRICK OR TREATER?**

- Stay in areas that are lit with streetlights - take a torch with you just in case
- Although Hallowe'en is supposed to be spooky, be careful not to frighten elderly people
- Don't enter any house, stay on the doorstep
- only go to houses where you or your friends know the residents
- Always go trick or treating with an adult
- Throwing eggs and flour is anti-social behaviour and will get you into trouble
- Be visible
- Stay with your friends. Don't split into smaller groups unless an adult goes with you
- Don't knock on doors where there is a sign saying No trick or treat here
- Don't talk to strangers on the street

CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE  
101 IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

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