



## Mawsley CP School Newsletter– Safeguarding at the Heart of Our Community

Welcome to our Spring 2 safeguarding newsletter; and speaking of Spring, how lovely to finally see the sunshine visiting again! We hope that you find this safeguarding information and advice for children and families in our school community helpful.

### Keeping Us All Safe at School

As Mawsley School, we have a Safety Signals policy in all of our classrooms. Using a traffic light system, traffic light coloured circles are displayed within classrooms. This helps our children understand how we learn to manage different scenarios in school, which helps to keep everybody safe. Your child may even have mentioned that they have used one of the signals in school, when talking about their day.

#### This is how it works:

**Green:** When this circle is displayed, children are able to move freely around the school indoors but cannot leave the building. This may be in situations such as Extreme weather conditions e.g. storms, snow etc.

**Yellow:** When this circle is displayed, this indicates that the children must stay in their classroom and only leave the classroom with an adult chaperone. This signal may be used if someone is unwell in one of the shared areas to allow the site supervisor to clean the area or to protect the dignity of the unwell person.

**Red:** When this circle is displayed, the children and adults need to stay inside their classrooms and not leave until the signal is removed. Extreme incidents like this could include an unknown / unwanted person who is present on the school premises. Whilst this is incredibly unlikely, we need to learn from previous cases that have been reported in the news, and have a strategy in place to protect all our children and staff, should we ever need to use it.



### Staying Safe for Free-Range Fun!

As our evenings become lighter and weekends milder, our children are putting down their devices and playing outside in the fresh air far more. Here are some reminders for playing outside that can help our children to feel safe:

- **Buddy up:** Have friends, and parents / neighbours as go-to links
- Practise their **address / phone number**, have a charged phone if appropriate
- **Emergency plan:** If someone has had an accident or they are approached by a stranger for example, identify safe public places for your child to get help e.g. TCAM, the One Stop etc, where staff in uniform can be trusted to assist them.
- **Know their rules:** distance and time limit



## Northamptonshire Safeguarding Partnership Update

In order to provide you with the most contextually relevant and recent information, we would like to share with you, a safeguarding update from the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Partnership (NSCP).

You may be surprised that Child Sexual Exploitation is an issue which affects children in Northamptonshire, as we are part of a perceived 'safe' community. However, the NSCP is currently concerned about the process by which children in our communities in Northamptonshire could be exploited. This is particularly because we are located in the midlands, within easy reach of transport road links to the rest of UK, making any kind of exploitation, trafficking and gang behavior for example, particularly concerning. Despite this newsletter being aimed at primary school parents, who tend to be more aware of what their children are doing and who they are friends with, we are all responsible for safeguarding in our community and could spot signs of child sexual exploitation not only in primary aged children, but in older siblings and friends also. We shared some issues regarding online safety and child exploitation in our last newsletter, so here is some more guidance about how to be more aware of the issues regarding child sexual exploitation in general.

***Sexual Exploitation – What Is It?*** *It is a form of sexual abuse, in which a young person is manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act. This could be as part of what seems to be a consensual relationship, or it could be in return for attention, affection, money, drugs, alcohol or somewhere to stay.*

*The young person may think that their abuser is their friend, boyfriend or girlfriend, but the abuser will put them into dangerous situations, forcing the child or young person to do things that they don't want to do. The abuser could threaten them or be violent towards them.*

### **Signs of Grooming**

Grooming is designed to isolate the child, break down the relationship with parents, carers and friends and so make the child easier to manipulate.

Children may:

- be very secretive, including about what they are doing online
- have money, cigarettes and new things such as clothes or mobile phones that they can't or won't explain
- go to unusual places to meet friends
- have access to drugs and alcohol
- in older children, signs of grooming can easily be mistaken for 'normal' teenage-like behaviour, but you may notice unexplained changes in behaviour or personality; or inappropriate sexual behaviour for their age.

***If you are ever worried about child exploitation regarding a child in our community, please report this to the police.***

**More help and resources for parents and carers:** <https://paceuk.info/for-parents/> or [www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/our-services/nspcc-helpline/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/our-services/nspcc-helpline/)

**More help and resources for children:** Call or text 116 000 - young people's CSE helpline This is a new national helpline for young people to call or text if they have concerns for themselves or a friend about child sexual exploitation: 116 000. It's free, anonymous and open 24 hours, 365 days per year.

