

1. Feeling safe and happy at school

At Magdalen College School we want to make sure that you feel looked after, safe and happy when you are in school.

Sometimes we don't know if something bad is happening, so you need to tell us.

This policy (or booklet) looks at what we do to make sure you are kept safe and what you can do when you think someone is hurting you or someone else or you know that something wrong or inappropriate is happening to you or someone else.

We will try to help you by:

- Teaching you what safeguarding is
- Teaching you what to do if you are worried or scared, or know someone who is worried or scared
- Making sure you know who you can speak to if you are worried or scared

If you don't understand something or have any questions about what you read in the policy, please ask your form tutor for help.

2. What does safeguarding mean?

Safeguarding refers to all the things we do to make sure you are kept safe from any harm.

For the purposes of this policy, the term 'safeguarding' refers to everything that the school does to keep children safe and promote their welfare, including (but not limited to):

- Supporting pupils' health, safety and well-being, including their mental health.
- Meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The use of reasonable force.
- Meeting the needs of children with medical conditions.
- Providing first aid.
- Educational visits.
- Intimate care and emotional wellbeing.
- Online safety and associated issues.
- Appropriate arrangements to ensure school security, taking into account the local context.
- Keeping children safe from risks, harm and exploitation.
- Child protection.

Child protection is part of safeguarding and refers to activities undertaken to prevent children suffering, or being likely to suffer, significant harm.

Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child and may involve inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. It can be perpetrated by an adult or adults known or unknown to a child, or a child or children known or unknown to the child. It can happen in person or online. Where abuse is perpetrated by another child, it is known as 'peer on peer' or 'child on child' abuse.

Neglect is a form of abuse and 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.

Peer on peer abuse refers to the abuse of a child or children perpetrated by another child or children. Peer on peer abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying);
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers;
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse);
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence);
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse;
- causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party;
- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi nude images and or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery);
- upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm; and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element).¹

Safeguarding means that staff will:

- Protect you from harm
- Make sure nothing stops you being healthy or developing properly
- Make sure that you are looked after
- Make sure that you have the best life chances and can grow to be a happy and successful adult

We will make sure that the school is a friendly, welcoming and supportive place to spend time in, making it somewhere you want to be.

We want to make sure that you know who to ask for help and will plan lessons to help you know how to look after yourself online and in the real world.

3. Staying safe

If you are worried about something, you can talk to any adult in school that you trust. This could be your teacher or any other staff member. If you need to talk, we will listen.

We respect you and want to keep you safe, so we will do our best to help you feel safe and happy. We will also teach you how to spot risks and what you can do to keep yourself safe.

We think it is important for you to know where to get help if you are worried or unhappy about something and we will do our best to spot if there is a problem.

We will always make time to listen and talk if you need us; please remember:

- You are important to us
- It's never your fault if someone is hurting you
- There is always someone that can help you and you will not be in trouble
- If someone is hurting you, they may also be hurting someone else, so it is important that you tell someone to make it stop and know that you will be kept safe
- Every child has the right to a happy and safe childhood – do not be scared to tell someone if there is anything worrying you

4. Who to talk to

It's important that you tell someone you trust if someone is:

- Bullying you
- Saying things to you that make feel upset or uncomfortable
- Touching you in an inappropriate way that you do not like
- Hitting or hurting you
- Taking your things without your consent
- Sending unkind, cruel or inappropriate messages on the internet or to your phone

It is important that you tell someone as soon as someone starts hurting or harming you, or you think this is happening to someone else.

Speaking to someone like your parent, carer or teacher will mean that we can make sure the abuse stops and doesn't happen again.

In every school there is always someone who has the responsibility to keep you safe and all staff have to tell that person if they are worried about you – this person is called the DSL which stands for Designated safeguarding Lead. Other members of staff have also been taught how to do the DSL's job.

The list below shows the people at our school that can do the job of the DSL:

Ms Jones, DSL

Miss Emily Tye DDSL

Mrs K Chambers DDSL

Miss Ciara Pringle DDSL

Mrs Kirsty Bowers DDSL

Mrs Rachael Bryan DDSL

Mr Martin Percival DDSL

There are places outside of school you can go to for help. You can phone or visit:

Whisper 07860021323 or visit <https://swgfl.org.uk/whisper/mcs1>

Childline on 0800 1111 or visit www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC on 0800 800 5000 or visit www.nspcc.org.uk

Kidscape on 020 7730 3300 or visit www.kidscape.org.uk

Youth Access on 020 8772 9900 or visit www.youthaccess.org.uk

5. Bullying

Bullying is a type of abuse that takes place when someone tries to hurt another person on purpose for a prolonged period of time. People can be bullied in many different ways:

Emotional Bullying includes hurting someone's feelings by leaving them out or bossing them about. People can sometimes use emotional bullying to take advantage of you to get their own way by making threats or making you feel like you have to do something for them.

Physical bullying can include hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling or purposely hurting someone

Verbal bullying can include insulting someone because of how they look or because of their personality and can often go beyond that. People can also use verbal bullying to be racist, sexist or homophobic.

Racist bullying is bullying someone because of their race, skin colour, the country they are from or the religion they believe in.

Homophobic bullying means bullying someone because of their sexuality; calling someone gay or lesbian to hurt their feelings would be homophobic bullying.

Sexist bullying is bullying someone because of their gender; bullying someone because they are a boy or a girl would be sexist.

Cyberbullying includes any kind of bullying which takes place online; cyberbullies send insulting messages over the internet and sometimes share secret information online to hurt someone's feelings.

Bullying is not always done by one person and can often involve a group of people 'ganging up' on someone – if you ever see someone being bullied, **never** join on and **always** tell a teacher.

The bully could be one of your peers, an older or younger child or an adult. It's important that you tell someone if you think you are being bullied.

Always treat others how you would want to be treated

6. Internet safety

Internet safety is an important part of keeping children safe at our school. We have lots of safety measures in place which we keep an eye on both in and outside school, to help safeguard children.

Computers and mobile phones help us all to share things and talk to friends or family, but they can also make it easier for bullies and other people to hurt you or get close to you. It is important to know how to keep yourself safe on your computer, your phone and on websites.

The school will help if you are sent unkind messages or if someone on the internet has asked you to do anything that has made you feel uncomfortable.

If you are unhappy with any photographs you've seen on your computer or mobile phone, you can tell a staff member in school.

We have an Online Safety Policy which is there to protect you

7. Relationships

Any relationship you have should be positive and make you feel safe, happy and comfortable. A negative relationship might make someone feel scared, confused, worried and even unsafe.

It is really important that you know the difference between a positive relationship and a negative relationship.

Positive relationships

- You are comfortable around that person
- You can be honest with that person
- You can say how you feel and what you are thinking and you listen to each other
- You support each other and treat each other well
- You feel safe
- You trust that person
- You do helpful things for each other
- You are never pressured to do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable
- You feel looked after

Negative relationships

- The person might push you, hit you or break your things
- The person might tell you what to do, what to wear or who you can see
- You might feel scared – they might say they will hurt you if you don't do something
- The person might make threats or do harmful things if you do something they do not want you to do
- The person calls you names, makes you feel bad in front of other people and makes you feel bad about yourself
- The person gets angry easily and you don't know what will make them angry – it might make you feel nervous
- The person might pressure you to do things you don't want to do or are not ready for
- The person might not take no for an answer when you say you don't want to do something

8. School buildings

All school staff will do their best to make sure the building is safe for you to learn in and spend time in.

We will make sure that you know who everyone is in school by asking visitors to sign in when they arrive at school. You will always know a visitor to the school because of the lanyard they will wear.

If you see someone acting suspiciously or trying to gain access to school grounds you should report this to an adult.

People that we do not know will never be allowed to spend time with you on your own and they will not be allowed to walk around the school without a member of staff.