Hello and welcome to our first safeguarding newsletter for parents for 2025.
In this newsletter we explain what a DSL is and how safeguarding works in the school.

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Safeguarding & Child Protection is such an important area of school life, especially for our children and young people. We have a half termly newsletter that shares key information and advice with parents and carers so that we can all work together with the same aim of keeping children safe in school, at home and in the wider community.

So what is a DSL?

- It is the person appointed to make sure that schools and colleges adhere to their safeguarding policies.

What do we do?

- Make sure all staff are aware how to raise safeguarding concerns
- Ensure all staff understand the signs of child abuse and neglect
- Refer any concerns to social care
- Monitor children who are the subject of Child Protection plans
- Maintain accurate and secure Child Protection records
- Raise awareness of the school's safeguarding policies and procedures, and ensure they are implemented and reviewed regularly
- Work with all stakeholders to ensure we do all we can to make our children feel safe at Millennium.

The NSPCC has a Factsheet for Schools which outlines in detail the role of the DSL and you can read it here.

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child, please report to one of us.

Whistleblowing
The council's 24 hour Confidential Reporting Line can be reached on the free phone number below:
0800-169-6975
NSPCC- 0800-028-0285

Safeguarding relates to many areas of life at Millennium including children's physical health and safety, mental health issues, attendance, managing medical conditions, internet safety, substance misuse, bullying, the dangers of radicalisation, child sexual exploitation, gang culture, FGM, neglect, domestic violence, forced marriage, sex and relationships education, British Values and road safety, among other issues.

At Millennium we feel it is really important to work with our parents and with the agencies that support schools and young people so that we can offer a safe environment that allows children to be aware of the risks they may face and how to respond to them safely.
As DSLs it is our duty to act on any information that is given to us, sometimes called 'disclosures' by a child or a member of the public that we feel could put a child at risk. We work on the premise that ***we would rather be wrong and have an irate parent criticising us than getting it wrong and put any child at risk of harm.***

It is not our role to investigate, but we do have to make enquiries and question children further should a disclosure come to our attention. We will check the information with parents and sometimes will need to enquire further to ensure that the child is safe. On some occasions if we believe a child could possibly be at immediate risk we will contact MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) or the Police without speaking to parents - we have to report all disclosures of domestic violence.

We never make judgments. We are human and it is not an easy role when we have such positive relationships with our parents and have to make calls to check the information a child has given us corroborates with the parent. **WE ALWAYS HAVE TO BELIEVE WHAT THE CHILD SAYS** - this is a part of our safeguarding training and hence the need for further enquiries.



Keeping Children Safe in Education is a statutory Department for Education document which all schools must follow when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It covers many aspects of safeguarding including different forms of abuse, early help processes, safe recruitment, how concerns must be reported and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Leads.
Click here for the full document.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment, within or outside the home, including online
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- Making sure children receive safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Going home procedures

If someone different is collecting your child, you will need to call the office to obtain the password for the day and you will need to pass this on to the person collecting your child. If this has not been done before the end of the school day, your child's class teacher will not release your child to an unfamiliar adult without a password.

Keep safe everyone,
The DSL Team