

Meadowbrook's Keep Safe Code



Dear Meadowbrook Parent

As part of our commitment to the Welfare, Health and Safety of your children, we implement a robust Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

On a regular basis through curriculum study or general discussion, we speak to your children about matters concerning their health and well-being. We refer to this as our Keep Safe Code and the children will know it as such.

Each term begins with an initial brainstorm as to what the Keep Safe Code should include. Amongst the many items that are raised the following are always included:

- the children's responsibility to help keep *themselves* safe
- strategies to keep safe e.g. *yell and tell, spotting bribes, my body my rules, code or safety words*
- the adults' role to keep them safe
- fire safety
- road safety
- water safety
- how to avoid household accidents
- e-safety including the use of social media
- bullying
- different types of abuse and when to recognise it
- PANTS the underwear rule
- peer on peer abuse
- the importance of not keeping secrets... '*surprises*' are different
- the countryside code
- what to do if you get lost
- the importance of staying with an adult or letting an adult where you are
- sex and relationship education

All of these topics (and more) are discussed in age appropriate ways throughout the academic year and are supported by visiting speakers such as the NSPCC, police or fire service. You'll be pleased to know that alongside the Keep Safe Code, we are careful to remind the children that the world is also a wonderful place and that being cautious does not mean being scared. Indeed, the children often enjoy our rendition of Hooray for the World https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DztYR5bl_g after each group to celebrate the many positive aspects that exist!

Our policy is to let you know that these discussions take place on an ongoing basis through both planned and unplanned activities. Please speak to your children about these topics and from time to time check in with what they have covered at school. The NSPCC website www.nspcc.org.uk has a wide range of resources for parents including their share aware videos which your children will also watch throughout the year at school. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/>

Internetmatters.org has some excellent advice for parents covering different ages of children https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw0K7NBRC7ARIsAEaqLRGJC2YPd3ivx9Yun1vHCeLmOrh-TCZi4Kak3deoXbseQBTeNIheDcaAkhQEALw_wcB

For parents of Primary children, e-safety is an ever increasing area of concern and we would ask that you remain vigilant with your child's use of social media. Please see the following videos and links:

[Snapchat warning video](#) (please note that some of our year 3 and 4 children are aware of what snapchat is...don't assume your child doesn't experiment with social media!)

<https://www.facebook.com/OfficialMonstah/videos/vb.192772410856761/687346924800432/?type=2&theater>

Finally, please remember that Meadowbrook has robust and somewhat unforgiving Child Protection procedures in place that exist for good reason. I say unforgiving because from experience, I am aware that some parents find our questions of them intrusive. Some would rather we keep out of family life and just 'do our job' but it is essential for all of our parents to understand that *all* aspects of your child's life are part and parcel of our job. Meadowbrook staff are trained not to think '*what if I'm wrong*' but rather '*what if I'm right.*' Whilst we are sensitive to any given situation, we will always prioritise your child's safety over the risk of causing parental offence. Please remember that as part of our duty of care to your child, the *welfare of parents* is also our concern and falls under the umbrella of safeguarding in a school setting.

Should you have any concerns or wish to speak to us about related matters the staff responsible for Safeguarding and Child Protection in the school are listed below:

[Whole School Safeguarding and Child Protection Lead & Designated Lead at Primary](#) - [Serena Gunn](#) (for out of hours or emergencies please use mobile: [0759 902 9085](#))

[Deputy Designated Lead at Primary](#) - [Sarah Warner](#)

[Safeguarding and Child Protection Lead at Pre-primary](#) - [Barbara O'Sullivan](#)

[Deputy Designated Lead at Pre-primary](#) - [Izumi Gill](#)

All designated leads receive a higher level of external training and attend specialist refresher training in a wide range of associated topics. Please let us know if you need any support or have any further questions regarding this ...we are here to help.

Serena