

## Child Protection Advice

Thank you for your interest in becoming a volunteer or regular visitor. As a school we are committed to safeguarding and meeting the needs of children and we hope this leaflet will provide some useful advice and information when working with children at Hope Community School.

### What are my responsibilities?

All those who come into contact with children through their every day work whether paid or voluntary have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

### DBS checks

Hope Community School's Recruiting and Selection Procedures specify that all adults who work in 'regulated activity' and work in a 'specified place' such as a school and this work is regular - i.e. once a week or more or 4 or more days in a 30 day period or overnight - will require an enhanced DBS Disclosure. This is to help ensure that unsuitable people are prevented from working with children. If your work with children means that you are supervised at all times, this may not be required.

The office staff will help you complete the DBS on-line application form and advise which documentation is necessary for you to present for the ID checks to be completed. You can apply to join the 'update service' at the same time to ensure that your certificate is portable. You must show your certificate to your Principal as soon as you receive it. The Principal may ask you to give signed consent so that he/she can use the update service.

It is a requirement, also, that you inform the Principal immediately if you become subject to any criminal investigation, caution or conviction. This helps to protect you as well as the young people in your care.

Hope Community School has a Safeguarding Policy and a copy is available from the school office.

### What should I do if I am worried about a child?

If whilst working with a child you become concerned about:

- Comments made by a child
- Marks or bruising on a child
- Changes in the child's behaviour or demeanour

Please report these concerns to the class teacher, who if they feel it is appropriate will pass the information on to the school's Senior Designated Person for Safeguarding.

### What should I do if a child discloses that s/he is being harmed?

Although the likelihood of this is small it is important to know what to do in such an eventuality as children rarely lie about such matters

- Listen to what is being said without displaying shock or disbelief; accept what is being said
- Allow the child to talk freely
- Reassure the child, but do not make promises that might not be possible to keep
- Do not promise confidentiality but explain to the child that you may have to tell their teacher or Principal in order that they can provide appropriate help
- **Do not interrogate** the child or **ask leading questions**
- Reassure the pupil that it is not their fault
- Stress that it was the right thing to tell
- Do not ask the child to write a statement
- Do not criticise the alleged perpetrator

Immediately record details of the disclosure, including wherever possible the exact words or phrases used by the child. This needs to be then handed to the class teacher who will ensure the disclosure will be put on to My Concern, our on-line record. This will then be sent to the DSL. **Please ensure you have signed and dated the record.**

### What should I do if the alleged abuser is a member of the school staff?

You should report such allegations to the Principal

### What should I do if the alleged abuser is the Headteacher?

You should report such allegations to the Chair of School Council if possible or contact the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) – James McMillan at 0208 303 7777

### What should I do if I witness worrying behaviour by another adult in school?

You should always report this to the Principal.

### How do I ensure that my behaviour is always appropriate?

Appropriate relationships with children should be based on mutual trust and respect.

As a volunteer or regular visitor you may well be working closely with children sometimes on a one to one basis. Children, especially when they are young, are often spontaneously affectionate and tactile and it is important not to alienate them through lack of response or by appearing to reject this. You should, however, be careful about touching pupils.

If you are working with a pupil on his/her own always ensure that the door is left open or that you can be visible to others.

Do not photograph pupils, unless requested to by the class teacher, exchange e-mails or text messages, or give out your own personal details. Any unprofessional contact with pupils (e.g. through a social networking site) may leave you vulnerable to an allegation of abuse being made against you.

It is NOT the role of a volunteer to discuss a child with a parent, this must be done by the class teacher or teaching assistant assigned to the class.

Please help us to safeguard the children in our care by following these guidelines.

No child should suffer harm, either at home or at school. Everyone who works in our school has a responsibility to make sure that all our young people are safe.

This leaflet has been given to you to make sure you understand what is expected of you. Please ask the school's DSL if you are unclear about anything in it, and keep the leaflet in a safe place, so that you can read it again if you need to.

If you are worried about the safety of any young person in our school, you must report this to the DSL.

**Alternatively call Phone 0208 303 7777 at any time if you are worried there is a risk of significant harm to a child or young person.**  
**Out of hours you will be connected to the Bexley Emergency Duty Service.**

## CONTACTS

### Principal:

**Mrs S Donnelly**

### Designated Safeguarding Lead for Safeguarding Children (DSL):

**Mrs S Donnelly**  
([principal@hopecommunityschool.org](mailto:principal@hopecommunityschool.org))

### Deputy DSL:

**Mrs. E. Carvosso**  
**Mrs. C. Jones (Family Liaison Officer)**

### Governor with Safeguarding responsibility:

**Lynn Mason**

### Chair of School Council:

**Lynn Mason**  
([Sidcup.chair@hopecommunityschool.org](mailto:Sidcup.chair@hopecommunityschool.org))



## SAFEGUARDING ADVICE FOR VOLUNTEERS & REGULAR VISITORS