**Safeguarding at Elmwood Junior School**

**What is Safeguarding?**

Safeguarding means:

* Protecting children from maltreatment;
* Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
* Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
* Taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

At Elmwood Junior School we have a **child-centered** approach to Safeguarding – this means that any action we take is always in the best interests of the child.

Each school in Croydon, by law, must have a member of staff in charge of Safeguarding. This member of staff works hard to ensure that both children and families remain safe and well. The Safeguarding Lead at our school is **Mrs Devecioglu**. She works very closely with the Safeguarding team to discuss, share and report concerns. The team consists of: **Mrs Read, Mr Beck, Mrs Kriesler, Mrs Macleod and Mr Ozgu.**

As well as the Safeguarding team, **all** other members of staff within the school (teaching assistants, sports staff, kitchen staff, site management staff etc) also receive regular training on Safeguarding issues. Our school has a **culture of vigilance**, this means that Safeguarding is **everyone’s** responsibility – not just the Safeguarding Lead or Team. Parents are a very important part of the school community and we ask that parents inform us of any concerns regarding their own, or other families.

**All** members of staff have been trained to follow strict procedures for the reporting of any concerns. Should you wish to gain a deeper understanding of these procedures please read the ‘Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy’ which can be found on the document zone of our website ([www.elmwood-jun.croydon.sch.uk](http://www.elmwood-jun.croydon.sch.uk)).

All staff are aware of the need for **sensitivity** and **confidentiality** regarding Safeguarding concerns. They will only ever share their concerns with a member of the Safeguarding Team. In most cases this will then result in a member of the team contacting parents to discuss the concerns. Only in circumstances where we have an **immediate concern** for the child’s safety would we contact outside services before parents have been consulted.

Concerns may include things such as:

* The care of a particular child e.g. concerns over neglect (Is the child regularly having cheese and biscuits for lunch due to lack of funds on their ParentPay account?)
* A child is being bullied by others.
* One off incidents that may have been witnessed by an adult.
* Concerns about domestic violence in the household.
* Concerns that children are being kept off school unnecessarily.
* Children socialising with others inappropriately outside of school.
* Inappropriate behaviour online.
* The way in which a child is disciplined:

All parents/carers can have very different ways of disciplining their child. This could include shouting, putting them on a naughty step (if they are younger) or sending them to their room (if they are older), being grounded, pocket money being taken away or not being allowed to do something they were looking forward to like an outing or a club. These are all appropriate ways of disciplining children in order to show them that there is a consequence for their actions and helping them to learn the difference between right and wrong. When children are being hit, punched, kicked or hurt in a way that leaves them with injuries, marks or bruises then that is not okay and can be described as [physical abuse](https://www.childline.org.uk/Explore/AbuseSafety/Pages/Physical.aspx). Physical abuse is a crime. School staff have a duty of care for children. Should we be concerned that physical abuse is taking place we would have to take further action in order to safeguard the child.

We encourage children to speak up about matters that concern them and how to keep themselves safe. We teach them that they can phone 999 in an emergency and we also teach them the Childline number (0800 1111). When necessary, children are allowed to use a phone within the school to contact Childline.

Finally, we are aware that many people are fearful about having to speak to someone about concerns that they may have as they may feel that what they say may result in the child(ren) being taken away from the parents. This is very rarely the case and would only happen in the most extreme of circumstances. If we as a school are aware of issues, we will be able to help signpost the appropriate services to families so that they are able to get the support that they require.

The NSPCC are also very useful and can provide some useful advice on Safeguarding matters. To contact the NSPCC, please call 0808 800 5000 or visit their website www.nspcc.org.uk