

Safeguarding Information

At Robert Peel, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and our top priority. Everyone who comes in to contact with the children and families who comprise our community has a role to play.

Everything that we do has the children at its centre. Their wellbeing, their safety, their achievement, their happiness underpins every decision we make. Often when safeguarding is mentioned, the immediate thought is about child protection – when a child is suffering harm, or is in danger of suffering harm. However, safeguarding is much more complex than this and encompasses a very wide range of areas. At Robert Peel we ensure that all of our staff are well trained in all aspects of safeguarding and this training is regularly updated and frequently revisited throughout the year. We also ensure that our curriculum provides the children with age-appropriate opportunities to learn how to keep themselves healthy and safe.

With this in mind we will continue to send out information about any recent safeguarding updates as well as providing you with key information around a range of safeguarding issues.

Who to contact if you re worried about a child

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The Safeguarding Team oversee and co-ordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe. They regularly attend training to ensure their skills and knowledge are up-to-date.

Meet the Designated Safeguarding Team

Robert Peel Primary School's Designated Safeguarding Leads are:



If you have a concern about a child's safety or well-being please come and speak to one of these members of staff.

What is a Designated Safeguarding Lead?

Each school must have an appropriate senior member of staff to take lead responsibility for child protection. Key aspects of the 'Designated Safeguarding Lead' role include:

- Ensuring that **all** staff are aware of the processes for raising safeguarding concerns
- Ensuring all staff understand the signs of child abuse and neglect
- Referring any significant concerns to Social Care
- Monitoring children who are the subject of Child Protection and CiN (Child in Need) Plans
- Raising awareness of the school's safeguarding policies and procedures, and ensuring these are implemented and reviewed regularly.

Keeping Children Safe in Education

This 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. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- Protecting children from maltreatment, whether the risk of harm comes from within the child's family and/or outside, including online
- 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
- Promoting the upbringing of children with their birth parents, or otherwise their family network through a kinship care arrangement, whenever possible and where this is in the best interests of the child
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes in line with those set out in the Children's Social Care

The Safeguarding Curriculum

We believe that one of the best ways to safeguard children is to equip them with the knowledge and skills to be able to keep themselves safe.

Safeguarding and the promotion of pupil well-being (including their mental health) is at the heart of our ethos at Robert Peel. Due to this, great importance is placed on identifying opportunities within the curriculum for children to learn about safeguarding.

Our broad, balanced and diverse curriculum gives our children the chance to experience life in all its diversity, to acquire knowledge, understanding and skills that significantly impact on personal development, behaviour and welfare; thus, equipping every child with the knowledge and skills required to keep themselves safe, happy and healthy both now and in their future.

We plan to constantly challenge children to think deeply about safeguarding matters and their own personal physical and mental wellbeing. We value pupils' questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas, and concerns. We teach them to share any worries with an adult and tell an adult if something just doesn't feel right and this can be inside and outside of school.

Safeguarding themes are interwoven throughout our curriculum and the opportunities we offer in school. Some examples include:

- Our school assemblies when the school's Vision and values are discussed
- Online Safety days with age-appropriate workshops
- Online safety discussions within computing and other relevant lessons
- Involvement in Anti-Bullying Week and Mental Health Awareness Week
- Relationships, Sex & Health Education (RSHE) lessons
- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons

How we can help in school?

At Robert Peel we understand that many children and families experience difficult times which can make a happy, successful school and home life a struggle. If you have worries or concerns about your child or problems at home then please talk to us as we are always here to help.

We are very lucky to have our own Family Support Worker Mrs Savage. Mrs Savage is available to help families and this may include helping to implement routines at home, discussing how to manage challenging behaviour, looking at support for your own emotional well-being, signposting you to various organisations, discussing your child's caring role at home and how it impacts them at school, family dynamics and your support networks, as well as supporting you to access grants.

Mrs Savage is happy to meet with you individually to discuss the best ways to support you and your children. She can be contacted either by the front office, school landline, via her work mobile 07464 220102 or via email at familysupport@robertpeel.beds.sch.uk

If you have any concerns about your child or any other child at Robert Peel please do not hesitate to contact a Designated Safeguarding Lead who will know whom to contact for the best advice and help and are experienced in using the appropriate degree of confidentiality.

Alternatively, you can contact Central Bedfordshire Council's safeguarding team on: **0300 300 8585 or 0300 300 8123 out of hours.**

Staying Safe Online

Don't post any personal information online – like your address, email address or mobile number.

Think carefully before posting pictures or videos of yourself. Once you've put a picture of yourself online most people can see it and may be able to download it, it's not just yours anymore.

Keep your privacy settings as high as possible

Never give out your passwords

Don't befriend people you don't know

Don't meet up with people you've met online. Speak to your parent or carer about people who suggest you do

Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are

Think carefully about what you say before you post something online

Respect other people's views, even if you don't agree with someone else's views doesn't mean you need to be rude

If you see something online that makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried: leave the website, turn off your computer if you want to and tell a trusted adult immediately.

Top Tips for Mobile Phone Safety

Remember if you are being bullied it isn't your fault and there is nothing so awful that you can't speak to someone about it. Talk to a trusted adult at home or at school.

Don't reply to any nasty messages you receive.

Don't reply to a text from someone you don't know.

Keep the messages you have been sent so you can show them to a trusted adult and make a note of the time and date of the messages or calls you receive.

Don't answer calls from withheld numbers or numbers you don't recognise, let it go to voicemail.

Block numbers from people who are sending you nasty messages.

Don't give your mobile number to someone you don't know.

Don't send pictures to someone you don't know.

If the problem is serious you can report it to the police or Childline.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Unbelievably, we have reached the half-way point of the academic year. Our current attendance stands at 94.55% which is improving from last term but is sadly well below our target of 97%, therefore we need your help to make this better.

We are a school that sets ourselves high expectations in all areas and attendance is no exception. Attending school is extremely important for children’s social, emotional and educational development and children who miss a lot of time from school can suffer in the long term from significant gaps in their learning. We need your support to ensure that the children’s education is not affected through missing time from school. The Local Authority checks our attendance each term and monitors the number of days children have off school. The Local Authority expects each child to be at school 97% of the time and has asked me to write to any parents whose child’s attendance has fallen below this. If a child’s attendance continues to fall then the school’s Educational Welfare Officer will meet with parents to discuss the reasons why a child has been absent.

It is also important that children arrive on time. A number of children are arriving late after the registration has closed in the morning. It is very unsettling for the children to try and join in with a session that has already started along with missing key learning that takes place at the start of the day.

What does your child’s attendance figure mean as learning time lost?

Attendance Figure	Days absent across one school year	Learning time lost in 5 school year period
95%	9 ½	¼ of a school year
90%	19	½ of a school year
85%	28 ½	¾ of a school year
80%	38	1 whole school year

Can I also remind you of the importance of contacting the school when your child is absent and sending a letter in when they return explaining the reason they have been absent. It is so important we know where children are and if we are not informed and cannot contact parents we have a duty of care to inform the Local Authority.

