



The Priory Primary School

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Safeguarding Newsletter

Summer 1 2021

“All children should be able to grow up in a safe community that is free from sexual violence where their rights are respected.

Creating a culture that fosters healthy relationships and challenges harassment and abuse is integral to this. With the right support for teachers, compulsory relationships and sex education has a pivotal role to play in achieving this. But this issue goes beyond schools and we all have a role to play in keeping children safe.”

Sir Peter Wanless, NSPCC CEO

The quote above from the CEO of the NSPCC encapsulates the huge scale of concerns and distress that have been exposed as a result of the ‘Everyone’s Invited’ website being launched. The levels of peer-on-peer harassment in schools is of huge significance and national and local agencies are all responding with a range of measures and strategies to support children, families and schools impacted by disclosures of harassment and abuse.

As you are already aware following our recent parent consultation, we are developing our new curriculum around relationships and sex education which will be crucial to supporting and developing the children’s knowledge and understanding of healthy relationships, issues of consent, respect for others and how they can keep themselves safe right from our early years and through to our eldest pupils.

In addition, as a school we are responding through the following measures and actions:

- ✚ Developing and embedding the Relationships and Sex Education curriculum across the school using the Coram Life lesson planning, resources and educator-led workshops and staff training to deliver a comprehensive approach to equip our children to develop healthy relationships and to stay safe.
- ✚ Staff training - key Safeguarding leads, deputy safeguarding staff and all other school staff will undertake up to date training through Hampshire’s Multi-Agency Learning platform. This resource offers courses on recognising harmful sexualised/sexual behaviours and other child protection training options.
- ✚ Links with the NSPCC - through our own links with local NSPCC co-ordinators we will be running the NSPCC’s annual *Speak Out Stay Safe* assemblies through their suite of online resources developed to ensure that schools can still provide this message within its classrooms whilst the NSPCC educators are unable to visit schools. The age appropriate, KS1 and 2 assemblies will cover the usual areas about children’s rights, different forms of abuse, bullying, online harm, identifying trusted adults, dealing with worries and the availability of Childline - (more details on this to follow after half term)
- ✚ Pupil Voice – due to school lockdowns, planned pupil voice safeguarding surveys have been delayed this year, but they will be carried out with sample groups of children across the school in the final half term of school. These aim to ask the children how safe they feel at school along with a wide range of questions that aims to find out how they feel, what they think and how much they know about keeping themselves safe both on and offline.
- ✚ Working with local external agencies – there is a duty to report any allegations linked to sexual harassment or abuse directly to the Hampshire Safeguarding Partnership and ultimately the police. Regular updates and training are accessed to ensure that we have knowledge of any services and support available to us as a school and to families in order to report, record and deal with any issues or concerns.

The NSPCC continues to be one of the UK's leading organisations in the fight against any of the forms of abuse that children and young people may suffer. As a result of the currently growing awareness of harassment in schools, the NSPCC has been directly commissioned by the government to provide direct support for children with their new helpline for people who have experienced sexual harassment or abuse in education.

Since 1st April 2021 they have launched a dedicated helpline for children and young people who have experienced sexual harassment or abuse at school, and for worried adults and professionals that need support and guidance.

The new NSPCC helpline, Report Abuse in Education, launched in conjunction with the Department for Education (DfE), is a bespoke helpline to provide appropriate support and advice to victims of abuse and harassment, and concerned adults, including onward action such as contacting the police if they wish to.

This dedicated helpline will offer support to:

- ✚ all children and young people making current and non-recent disclosures of sexual harassment or abuse on school grounds within school time, and incidents linked to school in any capacity
- ✚ any children or young people who want to talk about being involved or witnessing any incidents
- ✚ any adults who have experienced non-recent abuse
- ✚ parents and carers who have any concerns about their own or other children
- ✚ professionals who work in schools and need support in this or related issues.

Anyone who gets in touch through this dedicated helpline will also be signposted to other relevant support services available, including Childline - which provides ongoing support and counselling to children and young people.

The Report Abuse in Education helpline comes after a high number of anonymous testimonials were submitted to the Everyone's Invited website, documenting abuse in all types of schools, colleges, and universities.

NSPCC helpline, Report Abuse in Education on 0800 136 663 or email help@nspcc.org.uk.

Further information and access to the helpline can be found at

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2021/sexual-abuse-victims-schools-helpline/>

If you have any Safeguarding/Child protection concerns please do not hesitate to contact the following members of staff at school – 01256 850062 or email office@priory.hants.sch.uk. Any urgent messages will be passed on immediately.

Mrs Debra Adams (Designated Safeguarding Lead) , Mr Mike Stewart (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Mrs Carol Coe (Deputy DSL), Mrs Angela Selwood (Deputy DSL), Mrs Su West (ELSA)
Mrs Amanda McCoy (Safeguarding Admin)

Alternatively ANYONE that has a concern for the welfare and safety of a child or family can contact the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

<https://www.hampshirescp.org.uk/>

Under the 'report a concern' tab you will find contact telephone numbers for Children's Services.

<https://www.hampshirescp.org.uk/report-a-concern/>

If the issue or your concern is an emergency, or you believe a child or family member to be in immediate danger call 999 for the Police.