

Puddletown Church of England First School

'Inspiring learners to be the best they can be'

Dorchester Road, Puddletown, Dorchester, DT2 8FZ Tel: (01305) 848206 Fax: (01305) 848094

Headteacher: Mr D Hunwick

E-mail: office@puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk

www.puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk

Dear Parent,

As you will be aware our job at school above even the teaching and learning is to ensure that all of our children are as safe as possible. This places a number of duties upon schools.

The well-being of the children; ensuring that they behave in a safe manner, show respect and tolerance for others, are free from bullying are all key parts of this. As is ensuring that all trips are carefully risk assessed and that the building and equipment is all well maintained and that staff are aware of their duties.

Another key element of ensuring our children are safe is our statutory duty towards safeguarding. The responsibilities and duties of all adults working in schools are outlined in our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy which has at its heart the Government's Keeping Children Safe in Education document. Copies of both of which can be found on the school's website.

These 2 documents outline the statutory duty on staff to pass on and refer any concerns regarding a child's well being to the relevant professionals. In most cases this would be the Social Care team through what is called the Children's Advice Duty Service. Whilst anyone is able to make a call or referral at Puddletown First School it would most likely be made by myself or Mrs Flux as we are the identified Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Safeguarding concerns can come from a variety of sources. A disclosure by a child, a disclosure from a third party such as a member of the public or another parent, an observed incident or injury. In a case where a concern is raised the school's statutory duty is to pass on the concern to the relevant bodies. The school's job is not to investigate the nature of the concern further or indeed make any judgement on its validity, that is the role of the Social Care team and where necessary the police. Were the school to be aware of a concern and **not** act upon it they would be deemed negligent in their duties. Therefore where a concern is raised the school's position is to accept it at face value, without making judgement on those involved, pass it on to the relevant professionals to allow them to make decisions and guide the school's response.

I am sure that you are only too aware of terrible events involving horrific injuries and sadly deaths of children in the past that have been a consequence of adults being unwilling or uncertain to take action. We are determined not to repeat this. Therefore there may be an occasion when we feel we need to make a referral regarding your child. We realise that this will be a distressful time for you and your family but please be assured it will be for the right reasons, to keep all our children safe. It maybe that the referral comes to nothing, which I sincerely hope would be the case, this does not mean that we have made an adverse judgement on you or your family. It does mean however, that we have followed our procedures as laid down in our policy and fulfilled our statutory duties to protect all children.

If you ever have any safeguarding concerns for a child you are encouraged to share them, either with us in school or via the Duty Service 01305 228558.

If you would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

D Hunwick



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



CHARTER
STANDARD
SCHOOLS

