

Barley Lane School

Hard work, humility, kindness

What to do if you're worried about a child...

Keeping children and young people safe and promoting their happiness and wellbeing is a shared responsibility for all of us: teachers, governors, support staff, parents, carers and visitors of all kinds.

Worries come in all shapes and sizes from those gut feelings we sometimes have through seeing something that troubles us to children telling us they are at risk. Some risks are very serious some less so but they all need to be reliably shared to keep our young people safe: the question is how to do that?

In school as a team we meet twice a day every day before the school day starts and when it ends and we always ask the question "are there any worries or concerns about the children's welfare and safety?" We remind each other too of the range of risks including those we must make safe each day.

We also have a "school operational lead" trained in CP to share with and seek support as the day unfolds...this could mean a very serious risk needs to be made safe or a disclosure managed quickly and correctly and the "lead" is there to help and make sure we do the right things and share with the right people and in practice get the right advice.

The team uses an electronic system called CPOMS to log and record things in writing and what is critical is staff not only talk about concerns but promptly use CPOMS and the "safeguarding" tag to alert our safeguarding team (see below) and to note in writing what has been shared. "Systems" can go wrong so email is fine as would be a handwritten record but you must get them to the right people.

Mr MacCourt the headteacher is the school's lead on safeguarding and he works closely with and is supported by Wendy Hoaken our deputy safeguarding lead and Mr Jones deputizes for him in all things: these are the people to share any worry or concern and don't hesitate to do so.

mmaccourt@barleylane.devon.sch 07848 028 341

whoaken@barleylane.devon.sch 07848 028 342

djones@barleylane.devon.sch 07848 457 025

Please remember to use our school briefings and debriefings not just to share and listen but to challenge the "lead" and safeguarding team about what they've done and what is happening: what progress has been made? Be curious and persistent and there is nothing to stop you as an individual going direct to social care they can be contacted at the MASH (multi-agency safeguarding hub) mashsecure@devon.gcsx.gov.uk 0345 155 1071 out of hours call 0845 6000 388

Worries or concerns about each other should be shared with Mr MacCourt who contacts the nominated child protection officers within the local education authority (these are called LADOs and deal with serious concerns about teachers and staff including head-teachers) ladosecure-mailbox@devon.gcsx.gov.uk. Again there is nothing to stop you as an individual going direct to LADOs.

Any concerns about Mr MacCourt should be shared with the school's chair and safeguarding governor Damian Furniss damian.furniss@barleylane.devon.sch.uk

Sometimes worries and concerns can occur to folk later or maybe they are just hard to express to people in school: the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline 0800 028 0285 line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and email: help@nspcc.org.uk

The Devon Children and Families Partnership website is a good place for all kinds of safeguarding related information and guidance <https://www.dcfp.org.uk>