

SAFEGUARDING – 2023

RYECROFT C.E. MIDDLE SCHOOL is our school and we want it to be a safe place. All of the adults at the school will do everything they can to make sure that you are healthy, safe and happy.

In our school we respect you, we listen to you and we help you protect your rights.

We do our best to help you make good educational progress.

We teach you how to recognise the risks in different situations and how to protect yourself and stay safe.

Safeguarding means that school staff should:

- Protect you from harm;
- Make sure nothing stops you from being healthy or developing properly;
- Make sure you are safely looked after;
- Make sure you have the best life chances and can grow up happy and successful

How will staff try to protect you?

- We will always try to provide a safe and secure environment for you to learn and progress;
- We help to make sure that you remain safe at home, as well as at school;
- We think it is important for you to know where to get help if you are worried or unhappy about something.

NEED TO TALK?

*Our **Designated Lead for Safeguarding is Mr. Hall** - this means that he has the main responsibility for making sure you are healthy, safe and happy.*

*If you need to talk - we will listen. You can **talk to any adult within the school**.*

If you do not want to talk, you can always write it down and hand it to a member of staff, or post it in the Worrybox in your form room.

ABUSE

When someone hurts you it can be called abuse. This is when someone does something to you that is harmful, unpleasant or painful like:

- If someone deliberately hits you, hurts you, injures you or humiliates you in different ways.
- If someone says or does something that makes you feel bad about yourself or hurts your feelings which makes you feel scared, sad, upset or frightened.
- If someone shouts, threatens, hits or hurts someone you love whilst you are around which makes you scared, unhappy or worried.
- If someone doesn't take proper care of you so you feel abandoned, lonely or neglected. You might not be able to eat or wash regularly, or you might not be able to come to school every day or on time.
- If someone touches you in a way that you don't like for example touching your private parts.
- If someone makes you look at things which make you feel ashamed, embarrassed, uncomfortable or guilty. They may ask you to keep it a secret or give you presents.

Abuse is never ok and if you are being or have been abused you must remember – it is not your fault. You must always tell someone and they will help it to stop.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Sometimes a member of staff at school will need to check things with Mr. Bardon and then, if they can deal with the issues themselves, they will;
- There are times though when they may need to contact other agencies for support. These may be Childrens' Social Care (Social Workers) or Police.
- There are lots of other agencies who support children and families as well.
- Staff will talk to you and explain all of this and you can always go and ask staff questions if you are unsure about anything.

IN & OUT OF SCHOOL

All of the staff at RYECROFT C.E. MIDDLE SCHOOL will do their best to make sure the building is safe for you to learn in and spend time in. We will make sure we know who everyone is in the school by asking visitors to sign in at Reception.

You will always know who a visitor to the school is because they will have signed in at the General Office and be given a visitor badge

People that we do not know will never be allowed to spend time with you on your own and will not be allowed to walk around the school without a member of staff. The building, outside areas and fields will be as safe as they can be for you so that you don't hurt yourself, although accidents can happen if you are not careful! Staff will look after you if the fire alarm goes off and you should know what to do and where to go. When leave school to go on a trip somewhere, the staff will make sure they can keep you safe wherever you are going.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- We will do our best to spot if there is a problem. All of the adults in school have had lessons in how to keep everyone safe;
- We will work with other people (including people at home) to help protect you and solve any problems you may have;
- We will listen to you if you want to talk to us and need our help. We will always take you seriously;
- We will support and encourage you and will respect your wishes and views.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW:

- It is never your fault if someone is hurting or abusing you;
- There is always someone who can help you;
- If someone is hurting you, they might also be hurting someone else so it is important that you tell someone to make it stop;
- Every child should enjoy their right to a happy and safe childhood.

DO NOT BE SCARED TO TELL SOMEONE STRAIGHT AWAY – WE WILL ALWAYS LISTEN

TIPS FOR KEEPING YOURSELF SAFE

Bullying – If you think a student or a grown up is bullying you or someone you know, you must tell you parents / carers, a teacher or someone you can trust as soon as you can. It won't stop unless you do.

Saying funny things to you – If a student or a grown up says something to you, or you hear something that you do not like or that upsets you, you must tell your parents / carers, a teacher or someone you can trust.

Touching you – Your body belongs to you and not to anyone else. This means all of your body. If someone touches you on a part of your body like your bottom, chest or anywhere else you do not like, it is not ok. You must tell your parents / carers, a teacher or someone you can trust as soon as you can.

Hitting, punching or smacking you – if a student or a grown up hits you, punches or smacks you or hurts you in any way, you must tell your parents / carers, a teacher or someone you can trust as soon as you can.

Secrets – Secrets, such as surprise parties are fun, but some secrets are not good and should never be kept.

Presents – Presents are a good thing to get, but you should not take a present from anyone without checking with your parents / carers first. Most of the time it will be ok, but sometimes people try and trick children into doing something by giving them presents (like sweets, money, phones, cigarettes or drugs and alcohol). This is sometimes called a bribe. If it does not seem right, tell someone as soon as you can.

On the computer or your phone – Computers and mobile phones help us all to share things and talk to our friends or family, but they can also make it easier for bullies and other people that want to hurt you or get close to you. It is important to know how to keep yourself safe on your computer, your phone and on websites. RYECROFT C.E. MIDDLE SCHOOL has an Online safety policy which is there to protect you. If you are unhappy with any comments or photographs you have seen on your computer or mobile then you can also contact <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> as well as adults in school.