



WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

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SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBILITIES

We all know that every child has the right to be safe and should be protected from all forms of abuse and neglect, however, people do not always act when they are concerned about a child. This can be for a number of reasons: they could be worried about being wrong, or they may not know who to go to or how to raise their concerns.

The Department for Education has relaunched their national campaign called 'Together, we can tackle child abuse', to help address this issue. Cheshire West and Chester Council are sharing their message to ensure we protect children in our area.

The campaign asks everyone to help protect children and young people by looking out for the ABC warning signs. These include changes in a child or young person, such as:

- Appearance: such as unusual injuries or consistently poor hygiene
- Behaviour: such as being withdrawn, overly anxious, disruptive or self-harming or any other sudden changes in behaviour
- Communication: such as talking aggressively, using sexual language or becoming secretive

Many people wrongly assume that the responsibility for reporting or raising concerns lies solely with people working directly with children. However, this is certainly not the case and we all have a responsibility and duty of care to the children within our community.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we must work together to support and protect children at the earliest opportunity.

If you have any concerns at all that a child is suffering abuse or neglect or could be at risk of, they you should report it to the children's social care team and they will look into it. Information is usually gathered from a number of sources and your report could form one part of a bigger picture.

If you suspect that a child is at risk of or is suffering any form of child abuse or neglect, call Children's Social Care on 0300 123 7047 during office hours or 01244 977 277 in evenings and weekends and report it. If you are concerned that a child is in immediate danger please call Police on 999.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Carr
Headteacher