

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

Safeguarding means:

- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

Child protection is one part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes child protection procedures that detail how to respond to concerns about a child. Safeguarding children and child protection applies to all children up to the age of 18.

'Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, every day'

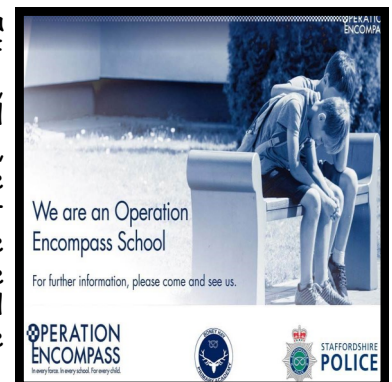
Keeping your child safe in school means:

- ♦ *the health and safety of all children*
- ♦ *making sure that the adults who work & visit here have undergone the necessary safety and security checks*
- ♦ *protecting children from deliberate harm*
- ♦ *being pro-active against bullying and protecting our pupils from harassment and discrimination*
- ♦ *a positive approach to behaviour management—following our policy*
- ♦ *meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions & providing first aid*
- ♦ *children enjoying safe educational visits*
- ♦ *providing a curriculum that teaches children how to help keep themselves safe including online*
- ♦ *ensuring the school site is secure and safe*
- ♦ *being a 'listening school' to worries and concerns (posters around school, worry boxes & emotion boards in class).*

***All of our staff at Oxhey First School have regular safeguarding training and weekly briefing updates.
Safeguarding is also part of our CFLP induction programme for staff.***

Operation Encompass

Our school participates in a national scheme called 'Operation Encompass' which is a joint partnership between Staffordshire Police and schools. One of the principles of Operation Encompass is that all incidents of domestic abuse are shared with schools, not just those where an offence can be identified. This system has been established to help schools provide in-school support to children who have been present at, exposed to, or involved in any domestic abuse incident. We know that children can be significantly harmed, physically and/or emotionally during these situations, and that it also negatively affects their learning & behaviour. Therefore, as part of the Operation Encompass procedure the school receives an email from Staffordshire Police the morning after a child has been witness to, or involved in any recorded domestic abuse incident. We are then able to use this information to provide the right support to any child and their family as and when they need it.



Key Documents

We have reviewed and updated our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy in line with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023' [Keeping children safe in education 2023](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) (publishing.service.gov.uk)

Click here to view Oxhey First School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy September 2023: <https://oxhey.staffs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/CFLP-Safeguarding-Policy-2023-24.pdf>



Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board's Priorities for 2023-2024 are:

1. Neglect
2. Earliest / Early Help
3. Child Criminal Exploitation including Sexual Abuse
4. Domestic Abuse



SSCB work with a wide range of partners to develop projects and support schools and families in Staffordshire in relation to these priorities. **The Voice Project** and **Catch 22** are two of their partners:

The Voice Project

Please use this [link](#) or visit the Facebook page for lots of useful information/support and activities to get involved in for young people in Staffordshire. [The Voice Project Staffordshire | Stafford | Facebook](#)



Catch 22

Catch 22 [Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire CSE and Missing](#) service, has been launched to support children and young people in unhealthy relationships, victims of child sexual exploitation and children missing from home.



Commissioned jointly by Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Staffordshire County Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the new service delivers a range of early work and targeted support with families, and carries out return home interviews for all missing children. The team is based in three geographical areas, Staffordshire North, Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire South ensuring that communities are able to easily access support.

This month, the round-up focuses on the phenomenon of **child vaping**. There are also sections on:

- Child sexual abuse & exploitation
- Children's Social Care
- County Lines
- Mental health
- Missing
- Youth Justice
- School absence

Read the Round-up [here](#)