



Safeguarding information for parents/carers

This guide is to help you understand how we at Oasis Academy Bank Leaze work to ensure the safety of all children in our care. At Oasis Academy Bank Leaze we are committed to supporting all of our children to do well. We will do everything we can to ensure our children are safeguarded and protected from harm.

Every child has the right to be safe from harm and danger. **It is everyone's responsibility to ensure every child is free from fear and able to learn and develop in safe, secure environments.**

We have a duty to ensure that all children at Bank Leaze are kept safe. Sometimes children tell us things that make us believe that they are not safe. If this happens we are obliged to take the matter further and refer to First Response. The highly trained professionals at First Response then look into the matter to find out what has happened and what needs to happen to improve the safety and wellbeing of the child.

All schools have a Designated Safeguarding Lead who is responsible for safeguarding.

The DSL at Oasis Academy Bank Leaze is Mrs Kerslake, the Assistant Principal. The Deputy DSL is Mr Wayland.

If you have any concerns about a child or young person please do not leave it to someone else to deal with, particularly if you think a child is being neglected or abused. You should act without delay. You can ask for advice, or report your concern to:

First Response Bristol Team on 0117 903 6444

When the offices are closed call the Emergency duty team on 01454 615 165

If a child is at immediate risk call the police on 999

Many people worry that their suspicions might be wrong, or that they will be interfering unnecessarily. If you wish, you can telephone for advice without identifying the child. If the conversation confirms that you are right to be concerned you can then give the child's details. You will be asked for your name and address too, but the agencies will take anonymous calls, so if you really do not want to say who you are, you do not have to. Remember, it is always better to be safe than sorry.

We help to keep students safe by:

- Having an up to date child protection policy
- Having other safeguarding policies, such as anti-bullying and internet safety
- Checking the suitability of all our staff to work with children
- Encouraging students to tell us if something is wrong
- Adhering to health and safety regulations
- Training all our staff to recognise and respond to child welfare concerns
- Appointing a designated person who has additional training in child protection working in partnership with parents and carers
- Sharing information with appropriate agencies if we have concerns
- Managing and supporting our staff team Internet and mobile phone safety: mobile phones and computers are a part of everyday life for many children and young people. Used correctly, they are an exciting source of communication, fun and education but used incorrectly, or in the wrong hands they can be threatening and dangerous.

What is child abuse?

A child is abused when a parent, carer, other family member or another adult known to the child deliberately causes harm, neglects or fails to protect their child from harm. Harm may be physical, sexual, emotional or may take the form of neglect.

Child Abuse and What to Look For:

No parent wants to think about the possibility of their child becoming a victim of abuse, and most children are never abused. Even so, it is important for parents to be aware of the possibility and to know that help is available if the unthinkable does happen. Although there is always a lot of media focus on 'stranger danger', the abduction of children is rare and the threat from strangers is quite small. You should still ensure that your child knows the rules about keeping safe when they are out alone.

Most children know their abusers. They may be family members or friends of family, someone who works with the child or someone who lives in the community. There are four types of abuse: physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and neglect. There are many signs, or indicators that a child might be suffering abuse. There may be injuries, but it is more likely that you will notice some change in your child's behaviour. If you notice anything that concerns you, talk to your child to see if you can find out what is happening. Remember that, if your child is being harmed, she or he may be too frightened to tell you. If your child becomes distressed or you are not happy with the explanations, you could talk to an adult you trust or call a helpline or children's social care services. Our designated person at school will also try to help.

Some signs to look for are:

- bruises or other injuries
- a change in behaviour – from quiet to loud, or from happy-go-lucky to withdrawn
- pain or discomfort
- fear of a particular person, or a reluctance to be alone with them
- secrecy around a relationship with a particular person
- reluctance to discuss where they go, or who they are with
- sexual talk or knowledge beyond their years
- being watchful, or always on edge
- losing interest in their appearance, hobbies or family life
- alcohol or drug taking
- having money and refusing to say where it has come from
- wetting the bed
- becoming clingy

Online safety

Here are some tips to help you to manage the risks:

- Try to put the computer in a family room where it will be easier for you to supervise your child's online activity.
- Ensure that your child knows they should never give their full name, address and contact details to people they chat to on the internet.
- Gently explain that some people they talk to on the internet may not be who they say they are and might say or do unpleasant or hurtful things.
- Investigate whether the 'parental controls' available from some internet service providers will be helpful.
- Consider installing software that can filter out inappropriate material.
- Talk to your child about their internet use. Ask them which sites they enjoy most, and why. Show you are interested, while understanding their need for some privacy.
- Impress on your child that they can talk to you if they are worried about something that has happened during their internet use.
- Make it very clear that your child must never arrange to meet someone they have chatted to online without your permission. Their new 'friend' might well be a local young person of similar age, but they might not.

For further advice and information visit: Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre: www.ceop.gov.uk Stop It Now!
www.stopitnow.org.uk

You may be alerted to question your child's online activity if they are:

- spending more and more time on the internet
- being secretive – reluctant to talk about their internet activity, closing the screen page when you are close by
- spending less time with the family, or giving up previous hobbies and interests
- losing interest in their schoolwork, regularly failing to complete homework
- starting to talk about 'new friends' that you have not met and who do not visit your home
- overly possessive of their mobile phone or computer – perhaps overreacting if someone picks it up or asks to borrow it
- showing fear or discomfort when their phone rings, or quickly turning it off without answering
- undergoing a change in personality that you cannot attribute to any obvious cause.

Why would we make a referral to Children & Young People's Services (CYPS)/ First Response?

All schools have a duty to refer cases of suspected child abuse to Children's Services. If someone at our school sees an unusual or unexplained injury or mark, if your child has said something worrying to us, perhaps someone has reported something your child has said or if their behaviour is particularly out of the ordinary, we are required to make a referral. Children's Services are also able to help children and their families if a referral has been made and abuse is not evident but there are concerns that mean additional support might be needed. Every school is required to help CYPS with their assessments but must not conduct any investigations themselves. This can only be done by social workers and/or police officers.

We have made a referral but you don't agree with it.....

If we think your child has possibly been abused we don't have to seek your agreement for the referral to be made. However, it is always better for your child if we can work together. We will, wherever possible, discuss the referral with you and also let you know it has been made.

What will happen next?

When a referral is made an experienced and qualified social work manager will read the information and decide what needs to happen next. They will be assisted by other agencies that you know, for example, school nurse, GP, health visitor or school. After an assessment has been completed, several things might happen, you may be signposted to an organisation that can offer you support and advice, parenting workshop might also be suggested. The health team might become involved. On some occasions a meeting called a child protection conference might be held – you will be invited to this. This meeting will only be called if the assessment shows that there is a likelihood that child abuse has or is taking place. If the assessment does not show this you will be told.

Children's Services may decide that they can still provide a service or will know of other agencies in your area that will be able to offer you some support. You may feel angry, upset or worried because we have made a referral. Please try to understand that every member of staff has a responsibility to act in the best interests of all of our children all of the time and are not allowed to take any risks if a child's safety is of concern.

Will my child be taken away?

It is very unusual for children to be taken away from their parents or carers. A child will only be removed if there is absolutely no other way of keeping them safe. The Children's Act says everything possible must be done to help parents look after their children at home.

Child Protection Online Management System (CPOMS)

What is CPOMS?

CPOMS is a software application for monitoring child protection, safeguarding and a whole range of pastoral and welfare issues used in education settings. Working alongside a school's existing safeguarding processes, CPOMS is an intuitive system designed to help with the management and recording of child protection, behavioural issues, bullying, special educational needs, domestic issues and much more. Using CPOMS, schools can ensure that students are safe and fully supported, whilst school staff can focus on teaching and providing support, instead of administration. It is a secure password protected system that only key members of staff have access to in accordance with Oasis Community Learning's policies and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018.

Every member of staff across school has an obligation to report any concerns they may have. CPOMS allows them to record information in a central repository and have relevant people alerted immediately. Senior leaders are able to build a chronology around a student and can produce reports on vulnerable pupil groups for case conference meetings, governors and Ofsted at the touch of a button.

Useful links

NSPCC Fortnite - <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/fortnite-all-you-need-know/>

NSPCC You tube - <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/youtube/>

NSPCC Snapchat - <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/snapchat/>

NSPCC Roblox - <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/roblox/>

Social media websites - <https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Young-people-and-social-networking-A.pdf>