

KEW RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Termly Safeguarding Newsletter

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to our first ever, termly Safeguarding newsletter. With a global pandemic and the ever-present prospect of school/class closures, keeping our children safe (physically, mentally, on- and off-line) has never been more important. These newsletters are a way to share with you some of the ways in which safeguarding is embedded in the school and to bring you updates (both in school and at a local/national level) when they arise.

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is about everything we do to keep children safe from harm. This means working with children, families, the wider community and other agencies to ensure that we are supporting children as broadly as we possibly can. There are so many factors that can impact a child's physical and emotional well-being, from housing and financial difficulties at home to Covid-related anxiety and bereavement. At Kew Riverside, we are here to offer support with any circumstance or situation that you think may be impacting negatively on your child's well-being and we encourage open and honest lines of communication between school and parents/carers.

Who's Who in Safeguarding at KRPS

Of course, keeping children safe is everybody's responsibility in school but those with key Safeguarding duties are as follows:

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Designated Teacher for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children (LAC):** Nell Webb
- **Deputy DSL:** Rachel Roberts
- **Mental Health Lead Teacher:** Maisie Scobie has been recently appointed as our Mental Health Lead Teacher. She has been at KRPS since 2017 and is currently our Year 3 teacher. Maisie is a trained NSPCC counsellor and regularly volunteers at Childline. She offers Time to Talk sessions with the children on Fridays and also leads on PHSE and RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) throughout the school. She can be contacted by email at miscobie@kewriverside.richmond.sch.uk.
- **Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA):** Lauren McGarvey has recently been appointed as our ELSA. She has been at KRPS since 2015 and is currently an LSP in Year 1. Lauren is a trained actor and loves using drama and role play with children to explore feelings and resolve difficulties. She can be contacted by email at laurenmcgarvey@kewriverside.richmond.sch.uk
- **Designated Governor for Safeguarding:** Denise Long has been a governor since 2017 and a parent at the school since 2012. The safeguarding governors are highly committed that all children feel safe at school by ensuring all the appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures are in place, and monitoring their implementation

and effectiveness through termly visits with the DSLs. They can be contacted at governors@kewriverside.richmond.sch.uk

- **Deputy Designated Governors for Safeguarding:** Peter King and Patrick Neave
- We also work with other professionals who are linked to the school – our **School Nurse**, Pat Fosu, our **Educational Welfare Officer**, Julie Miller and **Children’s Services** at AfC.

Promoting Children’s Understanding of Safeguarding

There are many different ways in which we teach children about keeping safe and looking after their mental and physical health:

- National events such as World Mental Health Day which we celebrated on 9 October with in-class sessions on looking after our mental health and raising awareness of the charity YoungMinds.
- Time to Talk sessions: These take place at Friday lunchtimes and are run by Maisie (NSPCC trained) and Rachel (Samaritan trained). Children can sign up to talk to Maisie/Rachel about any concerns or worries. They may also be (discreetly) encouraged to sign up for a chat by staff members.
- Assemblies, which range from inviting our school nurse in to teach the younger children about the importance of hand-washing to Nell and Rachel explaining (in age-appropriate ways) what abuse is and who the children can talk to if they have any worries.
- The Curriculum: for example, e-safety units of work in ICT; PSHE and PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)

These are some of the things children have said about safety in the school:

“My friends and my teachers help me feel safe”, ‘The teachers’ main responsibility is to protect the kids’, ‘When I came in today I didn’t feel great but I feel better now. All my friends and teachers are here’, ‘Now we have a fence it helps if we’re in the Trim Trail and we forget there’s a carpark there’. ‘I feel safe everywhere but especially in my classroom’.

Creating a Safe and Caring Environment

- You may have noticed that we have erected a new fence next to the staff carpark. This is to improve the safety of the Trim Trail area for children.
- We are also continually striving to create safe and nurturing learning environments in the classrooms. This includes everything from soft lighting and cosy book corners to PATHs feelings cards to support the children in expressing themselves and Ask It Baskets where children can ‘post’ their worries in writing (or drawing).

More Information

- There is a wealth of new information in the [Safeguarding section of our school website](#), including mental health resources and advice, information about Domestic Abuse support and an ‘essential reading’ section.
- If you missed the Online Safety presentation for Parents by Peter Cowley (AfC), you will find all the resources on our school website under [Safeguarding- E-Safety](#). Please do look at this. It includes everything from setting parental safeguards on devices to advice around the pitfalls of some of the most popular apps, games and websites.

What next?

- We are continually looking at ways to improve our Safeguarding practice in school and follow advice that we receive in training and network meetings
- In January, we will be inviting the Education Safeguarding Adviser for AfC to conduct a Safeguarding audit in school.