Villa Real School

together we achieve

Supporting Parents/ Carers in Safeguarding Policy 2026

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SUPPORTING PARENTS/CARERS IN SAFEGUARDING

THE PLAYGROUND/OUTSIDE SCHOOL

The playground is a safe place for pupils and students and is part of school property managed by the School. Please do not approach other pupils or students to resolve issues between that pupil or student and yours. Although you may feel angry, upset or frustrated by that pupil's or student's actions it is unacceptable and inappropriate to speak directly to that pupil or student in this way. You may make that pupil or student feel frightened, vulnerable or intimidated and you would not want your own child to feel this way. Please come into school and speak to us, so that we could resolve the issue by speaking to both pupil or student involved and any others. There are always two sides to every story and in a safe and secure environment, it is more likely that the pupil or student will tell the truth about what has happened and the issue can be solved.

Equally, please do not choose the playground to resolve issues with other parents/carers. Although you may feel that is a good opportunity to see the other parent/carer, those feelings of anger, upset and frustration can quickly lead into a confrontation (even unwillingly) and also can cause the other parent/carer to feel the same way as you feel. This behaviour is again unacceptable and inappropriate, particularly as it may be in front of your own and other pupils or students and can cause them to feel scared and anxious. Confrontations of this kind can often become physical and therefore you may increase the risk of harm, not only to yourself but other pupils or students. This will lead to police intervention if it occurs on school property and we then have the legal right to request that you do not access our premises again. Please remember to come into school and speak to us and we can arrange an opportunity for you to discuss your concerns, perhaps even with the other parents/carers involved in a calm and controlled environment so there is no risk of harm to you or to others.

If as parents/carers you observe any of the above behaviours including parents/carers behaving inappropriately towards their own children please inform us immediately.

SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

Social Networking sites can be a good form of communication if used appropriately and a tool for positive learning for our pupils and students. In school we support pupils and students in what it means to be a 'good communicator', for example by understanding 'what is a friend?' and how to maintain appropriate relationships online by being friends with only those people known to them. We also explore with our pupils and students how to be kind to one another online and report any form of abuse or harm by recognising that by teaching pupils and students this at an early age they will continue to make informed choices as they grow older and also recognise how to keep themselves safe online.

In school we have Cyber Safety Agreements and Cyber Safety Policies that support this and as parents/carers in our school community you have been part of this by signing our Pupil/Student Acceptable Usage Policy. We understand that parents/carers have a differing level of knowledge of Social Networking sites and gaming sites and wide-ranging views on what their children should or should not be accessing, however there are some general tips to keeping your child safe online, these include;

- Knowing what they are accessing
- Talking to them about how to stay safe online
- Setting parental/carer controls
- Checking age-appropriate content of Social Networking sites and gaming sites accessed
- Checking the recommended age limit for sites accessed

Pupils and students learn better through the role modelling of behaviour so please think about your own online activity including gaming sites or Social Networking sites and what message this can give your children. As highlighted above, issues may occur between your child and others but please do not use Social Networking sites as a medium to address the issues with another pupil, student or parent/carer. Comments that are written online can be misconstrued, hurtful and distressing and once written can be used as evidence in police investigations. To prevent a situation like this occurring, please come into school to address any problems that have occurred between pupils or students.

In line with this, please do not use Social Networking sites to be critical of either the School or staff within the setting. If comments are made against the School or its reputation, this becomes a legal matter and both legal services and the site used will be contacted to remove the communication as soon as possible. If comments are made against individuals working within the School, which causes that individual hurt, alarm or distress then under the Malicious Communications Act 2003 this becomes a criminal matter and the police will be contacted immediately by the School.

The above are the steps we have to take to ensure we protect our Staff, Governors, pupils and students in our school and community. Just as we take E-safety and bullying very seriously for pupils and students in our school we also take seriously the communications adults in the community post on line.

IMAGES AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Images and photographs create good memories for adults, pupils and students. However, our school policy is Captured in Photographs and Recorded Images Policy.

If you are taking an image using any mobile devices, please ensure that you take only photographs of your child unless you have the consent of the other parents/carers. There are many parents/carers who do not wish images to be taken of their child and there are legal reasons why some pupils or students cannot be photographed, so please be respectful of this and our school policy. For that same reason those images should not be posted online. Images that are shared online become the property of the internet and the Social Networking site, open privacy settings will share your images with complete strangers and may in the future cause distress to your child because they were posted online. Please take this responsibility seriously. If school are made aware that images are posted online without consent, legal and potentially criminal action could be sought.