



# Willow Primary Academy

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER—3

NOVEMBER 2023

## Safeguarding Team

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the school's safeguarding team.



Debra Arthur

DSL/Family  
Welfare  
Officer



Mandy Walton  
Piper Centre  
Manager /DDSL



Carly Tonks  
Deputy Head  
& DDSL



Pete Hales  
Head teacher & DDSL

Dear Parents & Carers,

A warm welcome to our current and new parents/carers.

Each month a Safeguarding Newsletter will come out giving you information on different types of Safeguarding— what it can look like for you, what it looks like for your child and who you can contact outside of school if you need extra support.

### Children affected by domestic abuse

#### What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse is any incident of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse, between people in a domestic setting (such as marriages or cohabitation).

Witnessing domestic abuse can seriously harm children and young people.

Domestic abuse can take many shapes, and it is important to remember that not all experiences will look the same.

#### Domestic abuse can happen:

in any type of relationship, regardless of gender or sexuality, and can continue even if that relationship has ended inside and outside of the home

on the internet, over the phone, and on social media sites

Most cases of domestic abuse are between partners or ex-partners; however it can also happen between family members who aren't necessarily in a relationship.

Domestic abuse is a crime, and never the fault of the person experiencing it.

#### What can domestic abuse look like?

- controlling or coercive behaviour, such as stopping someone from going out alone or controlling access to someone's phone
- physical violence, such as hitting, kicking, or punching
- online or digital abuse
- controlling someone's finances, like withholding someone's money
- harassment and stalking
- rape and sexual violence
- threatening to harm or kill someone

Live Fear Free provides help and advice about violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Contact them online, call their freephone 0808 80 10 800, or text 07860077333.

Refuge is the largest domestic abuse organisation in the UK. Contact them online, or call their freephone 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000247.

Childline offers free, confidential advice and support to all children, whatever your worry. Contact them online or on their freephone on 0800 1111.

Telephone: 01452526442

Email: [admin@willow.sandmat.uk](mailto:admin@willow.sandmat.uk)

website: [willow.sandmat.uk](http://willow.sandmat.uk)

## How are children affected by domestic abuse?

### Short term effects:

#### For younger children

- bed-wetting
- increased sensitivity and crying
- difficulty sleeping or falling asleep
- separation anxiety

#### For school aged children this can include:

- a loss of drive to participate in activities and school resulting in lower grades
- feeling guilty and to blame for the abuse happening to them
- getting into trouble more often
- Physical signs such as stomach aches and headaches.

## Long term effects of Domestic Abuse

mental health problems, such as becoming anxious or depressed. Low mental health can also lead to big impacts on physical health, including self-harm or developing an eating disorder, having a lowered sense of self-worth, using alcohol and other drugs as unhealthy coping mechanisms, repeating behaviours seen in their domestic setting.

**Since the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, children that have been exposed to domestic abuse are now recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right, rather than just witnesses.**

## Report any concerns

**If you suspect a child is being abused or is in danger of being abused, please contact a Designated Safeguarding Lead, or any member of staff. You can also contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on: 01452 426565 .**

**If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999**