



CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY - CHILD FRIENDLY

2025 - 2026



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At Bracken Hill School, we believe that every child and young person has the right to feel safe, happy, and protected from harm. You should feel secure when you are at school and know that adults are here to help and support you.

We will always try our best to make sure you are safe by:

1. Making our school a safe and welcoming place for everyone
2. Making sure that all adults who work here (including visitors and volunteers) are safe to be around children
3. Training staff so they know how to help you if you are worried or upset
4. Teaching you about how to stay safe, both in school and outside
5. Making sure you have someone you can talk to if something is bothering you

You can talk to any adult in school if you feel worried, scared, or unsure about something. We are here to listen and help.

Types of harm (Abuse)

Sometimes, children can be hurt or treated badly. It's important to understand the different ways this can happen.

Physical Abuse

This is when someone hurts your body. It could include hitting, shaking, throwing, burning, or hurting you in other ways.

Sexual Abuse

This is when someone behaves in a way that is not okay and makes you feel uncomfortable about your body. It does not always mean touching. It could include making you watch or look at things that are not appropriate or asking you to act in a way that feels wrong.

Neglect

This is when a child is not properly looked after. For example, not being given enough food, warm clothes, or medical care when needed. If this happens, it's important we know so we can help.

Emotional Abuse

This is when someone says or does things that make you feel sad, scared, or worthless. For example, being called hurtful names or being made to feel like you are not important.

Staying Safe

At Bracken Hill school, we want you to feel safe, respected, and supported every day. Sometimes there are different types of situations that can make children and young people feel unsafe. We will help you understand these in a simple way, so you know when to ask for help.

Domestic Abuse

This is when people in a family hurt each other or argue in a way that feels scary. It is not your fault, and you can tell a trusted adult.

Child Exploitation (CSE and Criminal Exploitation)

This is when someone tricks, pressures, or forces a young person to do things they don't want to do, sometimes by offering gifts, money, or friendship. This is not okay, and we will help you stay safe.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

This is something that can hurt girls and is not allowed because it is dangerous. If you are worried about this, you can talk to us.

Honour-Based Violence (HBV)

This is when someone is hurt because of family or cultural beliefs. No one has the right to hurt you, and we will always listen and help.

Radicalisation and Extremism (Prevent)

This is when someone tries to make you believe harmful ideas or join groups that are unsafe. If something feels wrong or confusing, talk to an adult.

Peer-on-Peer Abuse (including Sexting)

This is when other young people hurt or upset you, either in person or online. This includes being bullied, pressured to send messages or pictures, or being treated unfairly.

Upskirting

This is when someone takes a picture or video of you without your permission in a private way. This is not okay and should always be reported.

If you think you or someone you know might not be safe, it is really important that you DON'T KEEP IT A SECRET. You can talk to:

- Mrs Shelton - Senior Safeguarding Lead
- Mr Jackson - Deputy Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs Austin - Deputy Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs Brown – Deputy Safeguarding Lead
- Any other adult in school that you trust

What will happen when you tell someone?

- The adult will listen carefully to you
- They will tell you that what you said is important
- They will explain what they need to do next
- They will share your concern with Mrs Shelton, who will make sure you are safe and supported
- Sometimes, Mrs Shelton may need to talk to other people who help keep children safe, like a social worker or the police
- You will be kept informed about what is happening
- You will be supported in school at all times