



VALENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Valence Primary School

Safeguarding Advice for Families

Valence Primary is committed to safeguarding.

This leaflet has been designed to help you understand how we respond to concerns in order to keep all children in our care safe. Please ask any of the contacts named in this leaflet if you are unclear about anything in it, and keep the leaflet in a safe place, so that you can read it again if you need to.

If you are worried about the safety of anyone in our school, you must report this to the Designated Person for Safeguarding.

Useful information

Website: www.valenceprimaryschool.com

Email: office@valenceprimaryschool.com

Telephone: 0203 006 9888

Address:

St. George's Road
Dagenham
RM9 5AJ

Bonham Road
Dagenham
RM8 3AR



A short guide to explain how we Safeguard
the children at Valence Primary School.

The Designated Professionals for Safeguarding Children

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Cindy Bailey (DSL) – Bonham Site

Lipsima Choudhury (DDSL) – St. George's Site

Beth Vines (DDSL) – Bonham/St. George's Site

The Governor with Safeguarding responsibility is Cameleta Ffrench

Parent Support Advisor

Here to help – uniform, housing, financial support, domestic changes, advice and signposting.

Vicky Goode Tel: 0203 006 9888 Option 2 extension 6402

Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday - 8.45am - 4.00pm

Relevant Policies:

Child Protection Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Attendance Policy

Our aim is to provide a safe and secure environment for all.

As a school we are committed to safeguarding.

Security

All staff wear photo ID badges. All visitors must report to Reception on arrival and sign in showing ID and DBS if appropriate. All visitors are issued with a label. Adults within school are expected to challenge unfamiliar adults.

If the usual adult cannot collect a child, please call the office before the end of the school day. You will need the child's name, class, year group and full name of who is collecting. This information will be shared with the class teacher.

Mobile numbers change frequently. Please ensure that the school office have your up-to-date contact numbers and address at all times, in writing.

What are staff responsibilities?

All those who meet children in their everyday work, paid or voluntary have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people and report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Enhanced Disclosures

All staff and regular volunteers will require a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) enhanced certificate. All volunteers are interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team or the Human Resources Manager following written application and proven ID documents.

What do staff do if they are worried about a child?

Staff receive regular safeguarding training and are required to report any concerns about comments made, unusual marks or bruising or changes in behaviour to a Designated Safeguarding Lead.

How do staff react if a child says something unusual?

At Valence we listen without displaying shock or disbelief or asking direct questions. We allow the child to talk freely. We reassure the child but do not make promises regarding keeping confidentiality. We explain that we must tell a lead professional so that they can help. We stress that it was right to tell. We do not criticise the alleged perpetrator. Staff immediately record details in the exact words or phrases used. The report is given to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in a sealed envelope.

What happens next?

The DSL decides the next step, sometimes with advice from Children's Social Services. Where possible, we will inform the family concerned that a cause for concern has arisen and is being considered by Children's Social Services. If the concern requires further investigation Children's Social Services will contact the family concerned to provide the most appropriate support and guidance.

How do I ensure that my behaviour is appropriate?

Valence Primary School has a Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy on the school website. Some of the main categories of concern are:

- Physical abuse – marks in unusual places on the body, strict discipline e.g., that leaves marks including with implements (this is illegal in the UK).
- Emotional abuse – exposure to adults behaving inappropriately e.g., arguing,
 - fighting, swearing, alcohol excess, substance abuse,
 - hearing threats, observing adult material/games/DVDs,
 - internet related.
- Sexual abuse – this can be actual, verbal, or visual.
- Neglect – Attendance, diet, health and well-being, punctuality, left home alone.
- Female Genital Mutilation – this is illegal in the UK.

If you ever feel that you are becoming susceptible due to developments in your personal life, leaving you emotionally vulnerable, we are here to help.

Please help us safeguard the young people in our care by following these guidelines.