

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Julia Hart (Principal)



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss Chantelle Lawer



Designated Safeguarding Governor: Mrs Dawn Bentley

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The Mease Spencer Academy



Keeping Children Safe

A Guide for Parents & Carers

The Mease Spencer Academy is committed to creating a happy and safe environment for our children to learn. This leaflet will help you understand how we keep your children safe by telling you:

- How children can be harmed
- What we must do to keep your child safe from harm
- What you must do as a parent to help your child be safe and enjoy school

Child Protection

This is an important area in which all staff receive regular training. Our priority is to work with you but there may be times when we have to involve other people. Everyone has a responsibility to keep all children under the age of 18 safe. Harm is identified in four ways:

Physical—This is when a child is deliberately hurt or injured;

Sexual—This is when a child is influenced or forced to take part in a sexual activity. This can be a physical activity or none physical, eg, being made to look at an inappropriate image;

Emotional—this is when a child is made to feel frightened, worthless or unloved. It can be shouting, using threats or making fun of someone. It can also be when children see their parents or visitors to the home, fighting or using violence;

Neglect—This is when a child is not being taken care of by their parents. It can be poor hygiene, poor diet, not keeping appointments for additional support, not attending school or being left home alone.

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Attendance—Your child's attendance is monitored daily and significant absences are always followed up by the Education Welfare Officer. A healthy child is expected to achieve an average of above 96% attendance and when attendance falls below this amount, progress in their academic achievements can be seriously affected.

Behaviour —The Mease has clear behaviour rules for the whole school community that must be followed to keep everyone safe and happy. We understand that children do sometimes fall out and this will be dealt with by an adult who will listen to the children involved and help them resolve the situation. To see more information, see the Behaviour Policy on the school website at www.themeaseacademy.co.uk

Bullying —The school takes all cases of bullying very seriously and will work with children and families to try and resolve any problems. The school has an Anti Bullying Policy that you should read and understand (available on the website).

Health and Safety—Everyone at The Mease has a responsibility to keep each other safe. The school has a clear health and safety policy which everyone must follow. The school has a fully trained Senior First Aider (Mrs Hart) and first aiders to deal with any accidents in school.

E-safety - The school recognises that technology plays an important role in the education of our children and is committed to safeguarding children in the virtual world. To support parents, the school has e-safety information to help keep your children safe both in school and at home. We also have an E-safety Policy available on the website.

Complaints—If you have any complaints about how the school is working with you or your child, please feel confident to speak to us. The Principal will always be happy to speak to you to resolve any difficulties. It is better to speak to us as soon as you have a concern so that it does not become a bigger issue. If you feel the matter has not been resolved, you can raise your concerns with the Governing Body. Our complaints procedure is on the school website.

WHAT SCHOOL MUST DO

A child should be able to go to school and feel safe so that they can achieve their very best.

- Everybody who works or volunteers at The Mease will have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check to make sure they are safe to work with children and then trained to identify child abuse and what to do if they are concerned.
- The academy has a Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Hart (Principal) and a Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Miss C Lawler (Reception Teacher) and who are fully trained in Safeguarding procedures.
- We will always listen to you and work closely with you if we are concerned about your child but, sometimes, we may not be able to discuss our concern. The academy has a Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy which tells you more about this and when we must speak to the Police or Children's Services. You can see this policy on the school website.
- We will help your child to learn about keeping themselves safe. Lessons can include healthy eating, stranger danger, anti-bullying, e-safety, road safety, healthy relationships, drug and alcohol awareness. As part of these lessons your child will be told what to do if they are worried or concerned about their safety.

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WHAT PARENTS/CARERS MUST DO

Parents are the most important people to keep their children safe. You should always:

- Feel confident to raise concerns about your child.
- Talk to the academy if you need help or support.
- Read our policies about safety issues (available on The Mease website).
- Let us know if your child has a medical condition.
- Let us know if you have any court orders relating to the safety of your child.
- Let us know if there is a change in your circumstances such as a house move, a new contact number, a change of name, a change of parental responsibility.
- Let us know who will be dropping off or collecting your child and two other emergency contacts.
- Inform us of any changes to agreed arrangements.
- Let us know if your child is going to be absent and the reason why.
- Inform The Mease (confidentially) if you have any concerns or suspicions about the safety of any other children.

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