

Safeguarding and Promoting the Wellbeing of Children at Gillespie Primary School

Dear parents and carers,

The Governors of Gillespie School have statutory duties to ensure that there are robust policies and procedures in place for safeguarding all children and for promoting their welfare. In line with government statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' it is the fundamental responsibility of the school to work together with other agencies to safeguard children and to promote their wellbeing.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

As part of our statutory duties, we review all our safeguarding structures, policies and procedures ensuring that effective systems are in place in order to keep children at Gillespie School safe.

At Gillespie, safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone and we want all staff to be proactive and to take steps they feel are necessary to keep children safe and well. These include;

- Helping children to understand risk and how to keep themselves safe e.g. online
- Promote respect between pupils and prevent bullying
- Being vigilant to the signs that a child is at risk of harm and taking appropriate action
- Work with parents to keep children safe and well
- Listen to and believe the child and maintain a strong child focus at all times

Statutory Guidance for schools from the Department for Education highlights female genital mutilation (FGM). FGM is illegal in the UK and it is an offence for UK nationals or permanent residents to perform FGM abroad; or to assist anyone to perform FGM abroad.

At Gillespie, we are alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM. We are aware that there are a range of potential indicators that a child may be at risk of FGM, which individually may not indicate risk but if there are, two or more indicators present this could signal a risk to the child. We understand that victims of FGM are likely to come from a community that is known to practise FGM and that girls at risk may not yet be aware of the practice or that it may be conducted on them, so we have to always deal with any concerns around FGM with sensitivity.

Where the school has any concerns that a child is at risk, staff must activate and follow local safeguarding procedures and follow existing national and local protocols for working with other agencies such as the police and children's social care.

For further information on issues of safeguarding please, refer to our policies on the school website.

Yours sincerely
The Governing Body