'Concern' in safeguarding terms may mean the following:

- You think that your child is being hurt or bullied at school or online.
- You think that the school environment is not safe for your child and is causing them harm.
- You think that your child is being touched inappropriately.
- You are worried about what your child has said about an adult at school.
- You think that your child has seen behaviour in school that has made them worried or upset.
- You have worries that a child you know is being hurt – physically, sexually or emotionally – or is being neglected.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Extend Learning

Mendip Green School

Safeguarding

What does safeguarding look like in a school?

Safeguarding is about trying to stop ANY harm but focuses on preventing abuse and protecting the most vulnerable children.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Safeguarding Governor – tricia.brabham@mendipgreen.extendlearning.org
Tricia is independent to the school and has the responsibility to ensure that the school is acting in the best interests of the children. She ensures that we are upholding all policies and procedures that are in place.

Children's Front Door (01275 888 808): This is the place where support can be given either through children's social care or through the family wellbeing team. Services that support families range from family support workers and parenting groups to social workers completing specific targeted pieces of work.

Police: If you feel that your child has been harmed intentionally, you can call the police and report the crime to 101.

You may come to us because you have a worry about:

- **the behaviour of your child with others**
- **your child's behaviour toward others**
- **other children's behaviour towards your child**

In cases where you have worries and there are other children involved. We will ensure that we investigate your concerns.

What we will do when looking into safeguarding concerns:

Believe you and your child: it is our duty to safeguard children. We will never ignore you or the situation that you come to us about because we want to make sure that school is a safe place for children.

Gather the facts: we will talk to everyone involved to make sure that we have the most information and the clearest picture. This could be other children, other parents, or other adults in the school. Everyone we can When we do this we make sure we are confidential and will use phrases like, 'It has come to our attention that…' or 'We have received information about…'. We will not name your child when we are investigating.

Ask for advice: safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we work closely with agencies to ensure that we keep children safe. We may sometimes have to speak to other agencies to guide us. This can be health, police, social care, youth offending services etc.

Act on this advice: sometimes when we ask for help, agencies may suggest that we cannot provide help on our own and will suggest that we put a referral into an agency that is best placed to work with children and families. We will always talk to you about this and gain your consent and show you what is it that we are asking for help with.

Talk to you: sometimes we have to share difficult things about what we have heard. We will always do this in the best way that we can, even when it is difficult to hear. We will talk to you about what we have found out and what your child has said. We will tell you what we are doing next and how we can support you and your family.

Challenge and encourage you: sometimes parents come to us with worries about other parents and their behaviour towards their children. We will always listen and support you to act on this as safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We know that it can be difficult to report other people in the community, friendship groups etc, but if there is behaviour that you have seen/heard that you think puts a child in danger or at risk, you have a responsibility to report this to social care or the police.

What we will not do:

Nothing: we will never ignore a child or a parent who is telling us that something is happening to their child. At times it may feel like you are not given lots of information from us as a school. This is because we cannot always share specific details because it would either put another child or person at risk or it is not relevant to your child. It does not mean that we are not doing anything. We always record parents' conversations and this shows the actions that we take and makes us accountable for these actions.

Take sides: when we look into safeguarding concerns we have to be factual and gather all of the information from everyone involved. We cannot and will not take sides with parents.

Tell you about other children: We cannot tell you about other children, just as we would not share confidential information about your child with other parents. We know that this is frustrating but this is part of our duty to keep children safe.

Tell you what we have done about those other children: You may hear us say things like, we have acted on all the advice that we have been given. This does not mean we are doing nothing. This means that we cannot share the specifics about what we are doing because this breaks confidentiality.

What you can do as parents/carers:

Reassure your child: that they have done the right thing, that telling is always right, that you will talk to us and that they are not in any trouble. Tell your child that you need to make sure that they have help and that means you are going to talk to people who help. This models what we talk about in school, that we share information with consent.

Support your child: this could be by talking at home or asking for help from school or other agencies that can help your child understand what has happened to them.

Model the right way to act: as parents our initial reaction may not always be the most helpful for the children. Let school and other agencies manage, protect and resolve situations rather than turning to social media or sharing details about different children when you may not have all the facts.