

Safeguarding and Promoting the Wellbeing of children

Dear parents and carers,

The Governors of Gillespie School have recently completed a review and update of all policies and procedures for safeguarding children and for promoting their welfare. Details of the policies can be found on the website. We are required by law to ensure the school is:

- protecting children from maltreatment – physical or emotional
- preventing neglect
- making sure they grow up to be healthy and happy teenagers and adults.

At Gillespie, safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone. We expect all staff to be proactive in taking 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
- Promoting respect between pupils, and preventing bullying
- Being vigilant to the signs that a child is at risk of harm and taking appropriate action
- Working with parents to keep children safe and well
- Listening to and believing the child - maintaining a strong child focus at all times.

The New Statutory Guidance for schools from the Department for Education highlights Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as a specific safeguarding issue for schools to be vigilant about. It has recently attracted lots of media attention. FGM is **illegal** in the UK. It is regarded as child abuse. It is an offence for UK nationals or residents to perform FGM in this country or abroad, or to assist anyone to perform FGM in this country or abroad.

At Gillespie we are alert to the possibility of girls being at risk of FGM. Staff have had training specifically on this difficult subject. They have been made aware of the range of potential indicators that suggests a child may be at risk of FGM and of the need to handle this subject with sensitivity.

You can help. If you are worried about any child at Gillespie, please speak to your class teacher or to Katrina the Deputy Head. If you have pressures for FGM on any of your family and would like to discuss the problem in private, please speak to Katrina.

Where we have any concerns that a child is at risk, staff will activate and follow local safeguarding procedures and follow existing protocols for working with other agencies such as children's social services.

Yours sincerely

The Governing Body