**Weblinks and blurb for website**

**Domestic Abuse - Advice for Parents and Carers**

**What is Domestic Violence and Abuse?**

Domestic Violence is described as any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse. Abuse is: "psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional, between adults, young adults (16 and over), or family members, regardless of gender and sexuality." Family members are defined as mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister and grandparents, whether directly related, in-laws or step-family.

Domestic violence and abuse can happen to anyone, yet is often overlooked, excused, or denied. Noticing the signs of an abusive relationship is the first step to ending it. The following are examples of domestic abuse and if you feel you are affected or know someone who is there is always help available.

**General warning signs of domestic abuse**

People may:

* Appear afraid or anxious to please their partner.
* Do or go along with everything their partner says and does.
* Contact their partner lots of times to let them know where they are and what they are doing.
* Receive frequent, abusive phone calls from their partner.
* Talk about their partner's temper, jealousy, or possessiveness.

**Warning signs of physical violence**

People may:

* Have frequent injuries, with the excuse of 'accidents'.
* Frequently miss work, school, or social occasions without explanation.
* Dress in clothing designed to hide bruises or scars (e.g. wearing long sleeves in summer or sunglasses indoors).

**Warning signs of isolation**

People may:

* Be prevented from seeing family and friends.
* Rarely go out without their partner with them.
* Have limited access to money or transport.

**The Psychological warning signs of abuse**

People may:

* Have very low self-esteem, even if they used to be confident.
* Change their personality e.g. from an outgoing person to becoming withdrawn.
* Be depressed, anxious, or be thinking about harming themselves.

**Effects on Children**

The effects of domestic violence on children are many and varied and can have a long-lasting effect. Some children can become withdrawn and find it difficult to communicate while others may act out what they are witnessing. All children living with abuse are likely to be under stress.

Warning signs can be**:**

* Withdrawal
* Aggression
* Sudden behaviour changes
* Problems in school,
* Anxious and clingy
* Problems sleeping
* Bed-wetting
* low self esteem

Many children do cope well living with domestic abuse but we all have a duty to ensure that they receive the right help and support to make sure they are not at risk of harm.

If you have any concerns that a child or young person is being abused, maltreated or neglected please contact the Sandwell Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0121 569 3100 where you will be able to talk to someone about your concerns.

If you a child is at immediate risk please call the police on 999

You can also talk to a trusted adult in school who will be able to help you.

If you are concerned about the immediate safety of a child or young person, please call the police on 999.

**You can also contact:**

* [NSPCC helpline](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/nspcc-helpline/)

Further Information

* [Sandwell Womens' Aid](http://www.sandwellwomensaid.co.uk/)
* [24 hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline](http://www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk/)
* [Sandwell Council Domestic Abuse information](https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200324/domestic_abuse/2808/what_support_is_available)

**Safeguarding Children**

All staff in school have a statutory duty to protect and promote the welfare of the children and young people in their care.

Two key pieces of guidance form the framework under which we promote the welfare of children in school as follows:

* [**Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016**](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550511/Keeping_children_safe_in_education.pdf)
* [**Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2015**](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf)

Both of these documents set out how we work together with other agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined by the Department for Education in the statutory guidance “Working Together to Safeguard Children” 2015 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
* Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

**Child protection** is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. It refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child please follow the information in the link below.

http://www.tameside.sandwell.sch.uk/i/icons/pdf.gif  [What to do if you have a concern about a child (including your own)](http://www.tameside.sandwell.sch.uk/docs/Policies_16-17/What_to_do_if_you_have_a_concern_about_your_child_or_another.pdf)

**To promote the welfare of children:**

* **The school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).**The DSL is responsible for dealing with safeguarding and child protection issues at Grove Vale, providing advice and support to colleagues, liaising with the local authority, and for working, where necessary, with other organisations.   The school designated safeguarding lead is the first point of contact for any member of the school staff who has a concern about the safety and wellbeing of a pupil. More details about the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead are documented in the school’s Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Guidance
* **The School’s Governing Body**is accountable for making sure that the school has effective safeguarding policies and procedures in place and for monitoring their school's compliance with them.
* **The Head Teacher and the Leadership team**must be clear about their statutory responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and the steps they are taking to develop good practice beyond the statutory minimum.
* **All staff**need to be particularly sensitive to signs which may indicate possible safeguarding concerns, for example poor or irregular attendance or children missing from education.

**The school also embeds children's safety and wellbeing by:**

* Creating and maintaining a safe learning environment.
* Identifying child welfare concerns and taking appropriate action
* Using the curriculum to enable our children to develop keep safe strategies
* Creating a listening culture to hear the child’s voice
* Operating safe recruitment and selection procedures to prevent unsuitable people working with children.

If you would like more information on any of the above please contact the school office who will get someone to make contact with you.

**Safer Surfing - Advice for Parents and Carers**

As a parent or carer, the internet has opened up a whole new world and you will need to be aware of both the positive and negative influences it brings. Being able to support your child and offer them guidance will help to keep them safe in the virtual world.

If you have any concerns about anything your child sees online, their online activity and that they may be at risk of harm please report your concerns using the link below:

[http://www.tameside.sandwell.sch.uk/i/icons/software/reporttoceop.jpg](https://www.ceop.police.uk/Ceop-Report/)

**10 Tips to help children stay safe Online.**

**1. It’s private**... Make sure your page is private

**2. About me**. Never tell anyone anything personal about you, your friends or your family. 

**3. Don't tell**... Keep your passwords private.

**4. Making friends -** Don’t add anyone you don’t know as a friend. 

**5. Telling the truth -** Remember not everyone tells the truth online, so only speak with people you know and trust whilst online.

**6. Tell someone**. If someone contacts you and you don’t like what they have done or said, do not reply to or get involved in their messages. Tell an adult!

**7. Meeting up**. Never arrange to meet someone you have met online and not met in person before. Tell an adult if someone you don't know wants to meet you.

**8. Get an App**. Add the [CEOP](https://www.ceop.police.uk/Media-Centre/Press-releases/2010/FACEBOOK-AND-CEOP-GET-APPY/) app so you can report anything that happens which you think is inappropriate or makes you feel uncomfortable. 

**9. Once on line it stays online -**Remember once you post something, it could be up there forever.

**10. Ask for help! -** Always ask for help if you are worried about anything

The NSPCC have lots of guides and videos to help parents and carers to understand online safety and to have conversations with their children about keeping safe. You can get these on the following link

**Child Sexual Exploitation - Advice for Parents and Carers**

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is the exploitation of children and young people under 18. It involves situations where children are forced or encouraged to engage in sexual activities, contexts and relationships where the young person (or third person/s) receive "something" (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or others performing sexual activities on them.

Violence, intimidation and coercion are common but rewards and promises can be used to gain the confidence of children so that they do not see themselves as a victim of exploitation and think they are consenting to what happens. The reality is that they have not consented as children cannot consent to his or her own abuse

CSE can also occur through the use of technology without the child being aware of what is happening at the start, e.g. being persuaded to post images on the internet or mobile phone.

If  you have any concerns about a child you can contact Sandwell's MASH team on 0121 569 3100 where you will be able to speak to someone about your concerns.

Alternatively you can speak to a trusted adult in school who will be able to help you.

* [*1  
  Mar* World Book Day 2018 -Dress Up](http://www.tameside.sandwell.sch.uk/Diary/World-Book-Day-2018-2018-03-01-20022018205225)
* [*8  
  Mar* Reception - Mother's Day Afternoon](http://www.tameside.sandwell.sch.uk/Diary/Reception-Mother-s-Day-Afternoon-2018-03-08)
* [*8  
  Mar* World Book Day - Book Fare - 8, 9, 12 and 13 March](http://www.tameside.sandwell.sch.uk/Diary/World-Book-Day-Book-Fare-8-9-12-and-13--2018-03-08)
* [*14  
  Mar* Reception - Writing Workshop](http://www.tameside.sandwell.sch.uk/Diary/Reception-Writing-Workshop-2018-03-14)
* [*30  
  Mar* Easter Holiday 2018](http://www.tameside.sandwell.sch.uk/Diary/Easter-Holiday-2018-2018-03-30)
* [View all diary dates](http://www.tameside.sandwell.sch.uk/Diary/)
* [View calendar](http://www.tameside.sandwell.sch.uk/Calendar/)

**Mental Health - Advice for Parents and Carers**

1 in 4 people will be affected by mental health problems at some point in their life. Mental health problems can range from anxieties and worries caused by everyday life, to more serious long-term conditions such as severe depression, bipolar disorder, psychosis and schizophrenia, which need treatment and support from specialists.

A wide range of services are available for people with mental health problems in Sandwell. If you are concerned that you or someone you know has a mental health problem, you should first go to your local doctor.

If you urgently need to speak to or see someone about your mental health outside of your doctors hours, you can:

* go to your nearest walk-in centre or hospital accident and emergency
* contact the Samaritans on 08457 90 90 90
* call 999 where necessary.

 Alternatively you can speak with a trusted adult in school who will be able to help you

**Female Genital Mutilation - Advice for Parents and Carers**

Female genital mutilation (FGM), which is also known as female circumcision or female genital cutting, is any procedure involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons".  
  
  
Girls are at particular risk of FGM during the school summer holidays as this is the time when families may take their children abroad for the procedure. If you suspect that someone you know is at risk of being subjected to any form of FGM, you should take action and report it immediately. 

If you are concerned that someone may be at risk please contact Sandwell's Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub Team (MASH) on 0121 5693100 where your will be able to speak to someone who can help.

You can speak to a trusted adult in school who will be able to help you.

If you think someone is at immediate risk contact the police on 999

**Further information**

* [NSPCC - FGM advice](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/) <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/>

**Private Fostering - Advice for Parents and Carers**

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (18 if they have a disability) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a close relative. This is a private arrangement made between a parents and a carer for 28 days or more.

Cousins, aunts/uncles and family friends are **not** close relatives.

Close relatives are:

* step-parents
* grandparents
* brothers and sisters
* uncles or aunts (whether of full blood, half blood or marriage/civil partnership).

**Private fostering and the law**

If you live in Sandwell, the law says you must tell us if:

* your child is being privately fostered
* you are caring for someone else's child as a private foster carer.

This is because we have a legal duty to make sure that all children being privately fostered are being cared for by a suitable carer in a suitable environment.

If you know of a private fostering arrangement, but are not the parent or the foster carer, it's important that you tell someone.

Contact the Sandwell Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0121 569 3100 where you will be able to talk to someone about your concerns.

Alternatively you can speak to a trusted adult in school who will be able to get you help.

**Further information**

* [Somebody else's child - website](http://www.privatefostering.org.uk/) http://www.privatefostering.org.uk/

**Extremism and Radicalisation - Advice for Parents and Carers**

The following information is taken from [West Midlands Police website](https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/advice-centre/help-and-advice/radicalisation/index.aspx)

Extremism has many forms and promotes different ideologies, but the radicalisation journey is often very similar. It can lead to someone adopting violent views, breaking the law and even committing acts of terrorism.

The earlier stages of the radicalisation process will see changes in behaviour that are most likely to be spotted by those closest to the individual, such as close friends, teachers and – crucially – family members.

Help is available to support and safeguard those who may be vulnerable to negative influences but we need to encourage people to come forward and tell us about their concerns as early as possible.

**What are the warning signs ?**

There is no single way of identifying someone who is likely to be vulnerable to radicalisation but factors could include:

* peer pressure
* spending time on the Internet being influenced by others
* bullying
* change of appearance or behaviour
* crime and anti-social behaviour
* family tensions
* race hate/crime
* lack of self-esteem or identity and personal or political grievances.

**The Syrian conflict**

The conflict in Syria has resulted in an increase in the number of counter terrorism investigations being carried out nationally and locally.

More and more we are seeing news reports of distraught families who have discovered that their loved ones have secretly left home and put themselves and others at risk by travelling to Syria.

Here in the West Midlands we have seen cases of young people going to great lengths to deceive their families and keep their travel plans secret.

Again, the warning signs will vary but these may provide an indication travel to Syria is being planned:

* Asking for their passport and other important documents like birth certificates
* Saving money
* Buying new clothes
* Paying off bills
* Researching travel plans online
* Researching online, goods & clothes to take (binoculars, maps, boots, first aid kit)

**Help through the Channel programme**

The local authority led Channel programme is designed to support and safeguard individuals vulnerable to all forms of radicalisation. It is an early intervention, voluntary scheme which helps people make positive life choices.

The programme brings together a range of safeguarding agencies, partners and community based mentors who will be able to offer assistance with:

* Education
* Health
* Housing
* Mentoring
* Employment

**What should you do if you are concerned?**

The NSPCC helpline, now provide help and support to adults worried about the radicalisation of a child. This may mean listening to their fears, helping them recognise the warning signs, or highlighting local support services that are available. They can be contacted on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858

Children are also able to Childline if they're worried that they're being influenced by other people, or if they have more general worries about terrorism. Our helpline practitioners and Childline counsellors have received dedicated training to respond to this issue. They can be contacted on 0800 1111

NSPCC helplines offer a safe, non-judgmental space where adults and children can talk confidentially. However, if a child was thought to be at significant risk of harm, they would alert the appropriate authorities, as they would in any case where a child's safety is in serious question.

Further information can also be found on the Educate Against Hate website which is accessible on the following link:

* [Educate Against Hate - Parent Information](http://educateagainsthate.com/parents/) https://educateagainsthate.com/parents/

**Alternatively,**If you think someone is vulnerable to being radicalised, or if you think someone is planning to travel to Syria, you can get help by calling the police on 101 or, if it is an emergency, dial 999.

 You can also speak to a trusted adult in school who will be able to get help.

**Support Services For Families**

All families need support at some point. The following websites and leaflets provide details of services from the statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations to help find local services to meet their needs.

**Websites**

**Web icon**[**Ask Ade**](https://www.askade.org/)**:**Sandwell Family Information Service Directory.

**Web icon**[**Route2wellbeing**](http://route2wellbeing.info/): Health and well being services near to you

**Documents**

PDF icon [**Listening to Children**](http://www.tameside.sandwell.sch.uk/docs/Parent_leaflet/listening-children.pdf)- Improving communication with your child

**PDF icon**[**Encouraging Better Behaviour**](http://www.tameside.sandwell.sch.uk/docs/Parent_leaflet/encouraging-better-behaviour.pdf) **-** A practical guide to positive parenting

**PDF icon**[**Keeping Your Cool**](http://www.tameside.sandwell.sch.uk/docs/Parent_leaflet/keeping-your-cool.pdf) **-** Advice for parents on managing stress and anger

**PDF icon**[**Handle With Care**](http://www.tameside.sandwell.sch.uk/docs/Parent_leaflet/handle-with-care-guide-keeping-baby-safe.pdf) **-** How to keep your baby safe

**PDF icon**[**The Underwear Rule**](http://www.tameside.sandwell.sch.uk/docs/Parent_leaflet/the-underwear-rule---guide-for-parents-new-brand.pdf) **-** Simple conversations to keep your child safe from harm

**PDF icon**[**Home Alone**](http://www.tameside.sandwell.sch.uk/docs/Parent_leaflet/home-alone-guide-keeping-child-safe.pdf) **-** Need to Know Guide

**PDF icon**[**Sandwell Parenting Handbook**](http://sandwelllscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Sandwell-Parenting-Handbook.pdf)