

## **SAFEGUARDING ISSUES:**

**Attendance**—your child's attendance is monitored. Significant absences are always followed up by the Family Support Worker. The school has an attendance policy that you should read and understand. The policy is available via our website or from the school office.

**Behaviour** —We understand that instances of challenging behaviour are closely related to the learning difficulties experienced by our pupils. Some pupils may require a Positive Handling Plan which clearly describes the strategies to be used to avoid difficult behaviour.

**Bullying** —The school takes all cases of bullying very seriously and will work with children and families to try and resolve any problems.

**E-safety** —The school recognises that technology plays an important roll in the education of our children and is committed to safeguarding children in the virtual world. To support parents and carers, the school has e-safety information to help keep your child safe both in school and at home.

**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 Head teacher 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 do not feel the matter has been resolved, you can follow our complaints procedure.

Gibside School  
Burnthouse Lane  
Whickham  
Tyne and Wear  
NE16 5AT

Tel: 0191 441 0123  
[www.gibsidesschool.org](http://www.gibsidesschool.org)

### **SOME OF THE WAYS WE KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE:**

- Having one entranceway to the school building for visitors and ensuring all visitors sign in and out, and wear red visitors lanyards
- Having CCTV cameras at the gate and key-pads at entrances
- Risk assessments carried out by teachers prior to any off site visits.
- The school is part of Operation Encompass, which means, following any domestic abuse incident being reported into Northumbria Police, specialist Police Officers will make contact with the school and communicate relevant and necessary information to nominated school staff. This will ensure that the school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity and can subsequently provide support in a way that means the child feels safe.



See website for policies: [www.gibsidesschool.org](http://www.gibsidesschool.org)

# safeguarding our children



safeguarding  
and child  
protection  
information  
for parents,  
carers and  
visitors

## WHAT DOES SAFEGUARDING MEAN?

Safeguarding is the action we take to promote the welfare of children in our care and to protect them from harm, **we take this very seriously.**

This is the process of protecting children who may be suffering from, or at risk of, significant harm. This includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and emotional harm. Child protection promotes the rights and welfare of all children. All schools have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). This member of staff is responsible for speaking to parents if concerns arise, and if necessary, making referrals to Children's Social Care with, or without, parental permission. For more details please read a copy of our Child Protection policy (available on our Website or you can request a copy from the school office).

**At Gibside School the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Judith Donovan and Adele Fearon. All staff and volunteers have a duty to inform a DSL if they have any concerns.**

## HOW YOU CAN HELP...

- Please let school know if your child has an accident at home especially if there are cuts or bruises.
- Let school know of any change in circumstances at home which might affect your child's behaviour.
- Attend annual reviews, parents evenings and other meetings arranged by school to discuss your child.
- Attend any health referral appointments made for your child.
- Collect your child from school as soon as possible if they become poorly and you are asked to come and collect them.
- Let school know who will be dropping off or collecting your child and provide two other emergency contact numbers.
- Understand that sometimes we may need to speak to other professionals before yourselves if we are worried about a child's well-being and safety.
- Let the school know if your child is going to be absent and the reasons why.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Although social networking sites may appear to be the quickest and easiest way to express frustrations or concerns about school (and those associated with it), it is rarely appropriate to do so.

A private and confidential discussion with the appropriate member of staff or using our formal complaints process, are likely to be more effective.

It is wise to remember that once something has been posted; even if deleted immediately it remains on the internet.

If you would like your child to appear on the school website, Gibside School Facebook and other publicity, please ensure you have signed the consent form.

