

# Family Support at MSJ

At MSJ we recognise the challenges that families face in bringing up children and that there may be times when you need extra help and support. If this is the case, please come and talk to us. There are many ways in which we can help.

The diagram below shows the range of needs at different levels. We use this graduated approach in conjunction with the relevant Local Authority to make sure we provide the best support for different families' individual situations.



Everyone needs help at some time in their lives and therefore an ethos of family support is important for any school. We believe that early interventions for children or families, in many cases, will prevent children from experiencing harm. We also liaise with other agencies and people within the local community.

The Safeguarding Team ensure rigorous and robust systems are in place within the school to ensure the safety of all of our pupils. Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) makes it clear that **ALL** staff should be aware of their local Family Support processes and understand their role in it. In addition, it also makes it clear that **any** child may benefit from Family Support.

Family Support assists children and their families with, but not limited to, the following issues:

- routines and family rules;
- eating healthily and keeping to a healthy lifestyle;
- managing caring for a family member / being a young carer;
- children who go missing from home or who do not want to go to School for various reasons;
- children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities;
- children who may become involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour;
- overcoming the misuse of drugs and/or alcohol;
- children at risk of being tricked, forced, or made to work in the criminal world or join groups which support illegal views;
- parent / carer with mental health problems;
- children who have parents who argue a lot (and sometimes might hurt each other) whether the parents live together or apart;
- a privately fostered child (a child from another family living within your family home).

# Key Personnel at MSJ



At MSJ our Pastoral and Safeguarding team includes:

- Mrs Zinnia Wilkinson**, Deputy Head Pastoral, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Prevent Lead
- Mrs Belle Bedford**, Head of Prep, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) and Early Years Safeguarding Lead (EYSL)
- Mrs Fiona Fowles**, Senior Deputy Head and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)
- Miss Anouska van Ravenstein** Director of Boarding and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)
- Mrs Holly Wuidart Gray**, Assistant Director of Boarding and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)
- Mrs Lisa Guest**, Health and Wellbeing Centre Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

All staff are fully trained in all aspects of safeguarding including Prevent. Teaching and Boarding staff are trained to recognise the early signs of Female Genital Mutilation and Child Sexual Exploitation. All staff are trained at least annually on safeguarding procedures within school, including how to report a concern.

- Governors:
- Nominated Safeguarding Governor: Miss Alison Warne
  - Deputy Safeguarding Governor: Mrs Susie Moran
  - Chair of Governors: Mr Michael Hodges

## Pupil Voice

Pupils are actively encouraged to speak about any concerns they have to a member of staff and are encouraged to speak openly about their emotions. Pupils know the staff take all their concerns very seriously.

We have Pupil Post-boxes in the main school and boarding houses, as well as an online reporting form.

There is a Pupil Council and a Boarding Council where pupils can share their concerns. Staff operate an open-door policy and there is a body of Pupil Pastoral Champions supporting the girls at school.

A School Counsellor is available for one-to-one sessions, as well as frequent opportunity to speak with Form Tutors and Heads of Year who know their pupils well.

## Pastoral Support Team

Generic queries should be directed to the Form Tutor or Boarding House staff in the first instance. However, if you feel you would like to have a chat with the Pastoral Team regarding more sensitive issues, please contact Mrs Zinnia Wilkinson or Mrs Belle Bedford.

We have a team of Healthcare professionals in the Health and Wellbeing Centre at MSJ. A healthcare professional is on duty throughout the school day and the team works closely with the School Doctor (for boarders), local GPs and the Pastoral Team.

Ms Zoe Rule is the School Counsellor. She can be contacted via email: [betweenthetreescounselling@gmail.com](mailto:betweenthetreescounselling@gmail.com). The usual provision is a series of six sessions after which pupil may decide to continue sessions or be signposted to other agencies as appropriate.

Wraparound care is available to support working parents of pupils.

Staff work with pupils and their families to support their needs pastorally whilst also signposting them to relevant agencies. With the consent of families, we can refer families for further family support. We also provide tailored **Learning Development** sessions to pupils who require additional support with learning. The Learning Development team can signpost parents to further agencies.

**Attendance** is overseen by the Deputy Head Pastoral and any areas of concern are followed up and acted upon with care. All staff know how to identify and report concerns, and are trained on this during their initial induction as well as with our annual Safeguarding refresher and are required to confirm that they have read and understood relevant sections of Keeping Children Safe in Education annually.



If you have any safeguarding concerns regarding a child at our school or in the community, then please contact the DSL, DDSL or EYSL as listed in Key Personnel above. **If you think a child or young person is at immediate risk of significant harm, then you should contact the Family Front Door (FFD)**

– 01905 822 666 or in an emergency always call 999. <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/safeguardingchildren>