

# Safeguarding procedures for visitors to Columbia Primary School 2022-2023



**All adults who come into contact with children and their families share responsibility for keeping the children safe.**

**An important part of that responsibility is knowing what action to take if something concerns you about a child.**

As a visitor, you **must** pass your concern on to the appropriate member of staff. This will be one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads. Don't talk to anyone else about it, and don't worry about whether it's serious or not- the Designated Safeguarding Leads will decide that. We will listen to you and probably ask you to write what you've told us on a concern sheet.

**Please don't wait until the end of the day to tell.**

**By signing in you show that you have read, understood and will comply with this procedure.**

## **What you have to be aware of because we're in Tower Hamlets and especially at Columbia Primary School:**

Tower Hamlets' character and population is unique in the UK and Columbia Primary School, because of its location, is unusual within Tower Hamlets. We take these factors into account when planning strategies to safeguard the children and adults at our school.

Our immediate local area is currently a hub of drug and gang activity. Dealing and drug-related behaviour is visible on the streets around our school. This puts our children who live in the nearby area at risk of exposure to drugs and all the negative effects they can have on families and communities. It also makes them vulnerable to grooming by (slightly older) gang members.

Tower Hamlets has been identified as high priority for support through the PREVENT strategy because of its long history of extremist political activity from left and right wing groups, its shifting immigrant populations and high profile instances of young people's recruitment by an extremist Islamist group. We work closely with the LBTH PREVENT co-ordinator and with Children's Social Care to safeguard children and families who are already identified as being at risk but in addition to this all members of staff are alert to the signs which could indicate a cause for concern about any vulnerable child.

We have a number of families who come from areas of the world where FGM is practised. Key members of staff have had specific training from the Violence Against Women and Girls Team and share the role of talking to families who might be affected by this with the DSL.

Finally, because of our location, we have many children from families whose parents are highly educated, articulate and economically secure. We are careful to monitor our own prejudices in order to be as alert to risk factors in these families as we are in all others.