



Our Safeguarding Team at Erdington Hall Primary Academy

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Downes

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mr Edwards / Miss Charlton / Miss Alleyne

Contact details for our Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputies can be found on our academy website and via the following link [Safeguarding - Erdington Hall Primary](#)

Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for Prevent (in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism): Mrs Downes

Operation Encompass Key Adult (in relation to protecting and supporting individuals from domestic abuse): Mrs Downes

Designated Teacher for Looked After Children: Mr Edwards

Senior Mental Health First Aid Lead: Miss Charlton

Rights Respecting Link: Miss Charlton

Safeguarding Governor: Mr Dillon

Local Authority Safeguarding Context

Erdington Hall Primary Academy is located in Birmingham and serves children, young people and their families from predominantly the Birmingham area.

Birmingham

Birmingham Council had their Children's Social Care Services Ofsted undertaken in March 2023 and were graded as good. <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80429>

Birmingham is the largest Local Authority in the UK which means there are a large number of children (over 250,000) to support and safeguard. Birmingham has a younger than average population with over a quarter of its residents aged under 18 according to 2011 census data. There are significantly more children living in poverty in Birmingham than the national average. Figures published in 2021 show that 3 of the 5 areas with the highest child poverty rates in the UK are in Birmingham. (Hodge Hill with 53% of children living in households below the poverty line, Ladywood with 50% and Hall Green with 46%). Hodge Hill also has the highest rates of unemployment in the UK.

Health outcomes in Birmingham are also poor in comparison to national averages. The West Midlands has consistently had the highest rates of infant mortality in England and Wales (according to ONS data). NHS data shows that Birmingham has one of the highest childhood obesity rates in England with over a quarter of children classed as obese at age 11.

Birmingham is a diverse city with a higher number of residents than average from minority ethnic backgrounds (including 58% of children according to 2011 census figures). There are also far more residents in the city than the national average born outside of the UK and more than twice as many people than average for whom English is not their first language. Children in these communities may be more vulnerable to neglect than those of White British heritage as their families are more likely to be living in poverty, more likely to experience isolation and may face barriers in terms of access to services.

Birmingham Neglect Strategy 2022-2026

<https://lscpbirmingham.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Tackling-Neglect-in-Birmingham-A-Strategy-for-Children-and-Young-People-2022-2026-11.pdf>

Neglect is the most common form of child abuse in the UK and, while we don't yet have detailed data, the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have increased the risk of children being neglected. Neglect can have a devastating effect on children's lives. Whatever organisation we come from, and whatever role we do, we all have a responsibility to look for signs of neglect in our work with children and families and to take action when we identify them. The most likely reason for a child in Birmingham to need support and/or protection is neglect.

Birmingham's Safeguarding Children's Partnership have four priorities for the next two years as outlined in their Business Improvement Plan.

<https://lscpbirmingham.org.uk/documents/business-improvement-plan-2025-27>

Priority 1: Working together more effectively – Implementing national reforms to strengthen multi-agency practice to support families and safeguard children.

Priority 2: Voice of the child and family – Ensuring children and parents/carers views are central to our multi-agency practice and engaging children and families with lived experience to improve our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Priority 3: Children out of sight – Developing multi-agency pathways to better support and safeguard children who are at risk of, or who have become, out of sight to services.

Priority 4: Harm outside the home – Improving earlier identification and responses to children at risk of, or who are engaged in, serious youth violence or who are being criminally and/or sexually exploited.

Local Authority Factors	The actions Erdington Hall Primary Academy is taking
Working together more effectively	At Erdington Hall Primary Academy we proactively engage with appropriate agencies to support our families in safeguarding our children. This includes Summit Learning Trust’s Base Camp Offer
Voice of the child and family	At Erdington Hall Primary Academy we ensure that our children, parents and carers’ views are central to our in school and where appropriate, multi-agency practice in engaging children and families with lived experience to improve our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
Children out of sight	At Erdington Hall Primary Academy we rigorously monitor safeguarding processes and maintain high levels of vigilance for all children, including those who have been previously known to outside agencies, questioning practice of such agencies and welcoming professional challenge within our academy and beyond.
Harm outside the home	At Erdington Hall Primary Academy we teach our children and families about safeguarding, including foci such as Trusted Adults, staying safe online, inside and outside of school. We maintain a culture of professional curiosity, high vigilance and continuous safeguarding professional development.

Erdington Hall Primary Academy Safeguarding Context

At Erdington Hall Primary Academy we regularly seek the views of our local stakeholders in addition to the safeguarding procedures we robustly have in place to identify emerging and escalating safeguarding issues. We do this to ensure that we have a historic and current understanding of the contextual matters affecting our community, particularly our learners and their families. At Erdington Hall Primary Academy we are here to notice, listen, respect, help, and support. This support may be from a key member of staff in our academy or from a local service or organisation.

Academy Community Factors	The actions that Erdington Hall Primary are taking
Signs of Domestic Violence	All colleagues are guided by comprehensive and ongoing safeguarding training, where contextual data is used to support awareness of domestic violence. Leaders support all colleagues in noticing signs of domestic violence and effective reporting where issues arise. Leaders use data to identify patterns and take a strategic

	<p>approach to support children and their families who may be victims.</p> <p>To support children and their families, the school engages with appropriate agencies to signpost support such as: local Help Hubs, refuges and charities, as well as offering parent counselling and child mentoring. Children are led through the curriculum, assemblies and visits to and from outside agencies that teach about how adults should treat them and what is appropriate behaviour. Our children are taught about what is a Trusted Adult and what they can do if they are uncomfortable about the way in which anyone in the home, outside of school as well as at online and beyond.</p>
Neglect	<p>All colleagues are guided by comprehensive and ongoing safeguarding training, to develop a sound understanding of the indicators of possible neglect. For colleagues, this includes on-going monitoring of children to rigorously check for potential indicators of neglect. Leaders support all colleagues in noticing signs of neglect and ensure that effective reporting takes place where cases of suspected neglect are identified. Leaders use data to identify patterns, triage cases of suspected neglect and take a strategic approach to support children and their families where neglect is suspected or identified. This includes directing families to Early Help and completing referrals where deemed suitable by DSLs, as well as directing families to other appropriate agencies and the academy's family support worker and pastoral team. Our children are taught what they should expect as a minimum in their home, regarding personal hygiene, care, support and affection through our PSHE curriculum, assemblies and education of children's rights (UNCRC).</p>
Homelessness	<p>All colleagues are guided by comprehensive and ongoing safeguarding training, where contextual data is used to demonstrate the statistics of homelessness locally and how to support and signpost families in these circumstances. Leaders support all colleagues in knowing possible effects of homelessness on the children, and how to take action to best support their wellbeing.</p>

	<p>Leaders use data to monitor and best understand a family’s living context. They take a strategic approach to support children and their families who are or at risk of or may be homeless. This includes working alongside refuges to monitor their wellbeing.</p> <p>The Summit Basecamp offer has multitude of resources to support families. Provision includes every-day items, digital resources, hygiene essentials and home appliances.</p> <p>The academy’s Inclusion Team signpost families to local Help Hubs, refuges and charities, as well as offering parent counselling and child mentoring.</p>
<p>Online Safety</p>	<p>All colleagues are guided by comprehensive and ongoing safeguarding training, where contextual data is used to support awareness of Online Safety. Leaders support all colleagues in noting concerns in online behaviour and effective reporting where issues arise. Leaders use data provided by Smoothwall (monitoring and filtering software) to identify patterns and take a strategic approach to support children and their families who may be victims.</p> <p>Local agencies such as PCSOs deliver workshops and guidance to pupils regarding appropriate online behaviour, re-enforcing lessons delivered through The National Online Safety organisation. E-safety messages and posters are regularly shared with pupils, parents and carers to keep apace with rapid technological developments such as the use of devices, apps and AI inside and outside of school.</p>

Birmingham Children’s Trust

The Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) provides a single point of contact for professionals and members of the public who want to access support or raise concerns about a child.

<https://www.birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk/contact>

Telephone: **0121 303 1888** Emergency out-of-hours Telephone: **0121 675 4806**

Solihull Safeguarding Children Partnership

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

If you have significant worries about the safeguarding of a child, please call the MASH Team to speak to the Duty Social Worker for advice before submitting this form:

<https://digital.solihull.gov.uk/ChildrensSocialWorkServiceReferral/>

Telephone: **0121 788 4300 option 2** (Monday to Thursday 8:45am - 5:20pm, Friday 8:45am - 4.30pm), or **0121 605 6060** (Evenings, weekends, or bank holidays)

<https://www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk/lscp/>