

Safeguarding and Child Protection at Our Events

Everyone at Merton School Sport Partnership works together to ensure that children and young people are kept safe by contributing to:

- providing a safe environment for children and young people to learn and compete; and
- identifying children and young people who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and taking appropriate action with the aim of making sure they are kept safe both at home and at school.

Identification

It is important for children and staff to be aware of the adults present at our events especially when events are held at public sites. In order to ensure ease of visibility all DBS cleared and vetted staff from MSSP and the Primary Schools will be provided with a high visibility yellow sash to wear throughout the event. Primary school staff must bring their school photo ID with them and declare all DBS cleared/vetted supporting adults when they register their team.

Any spectators that have not been DBS cleared/vetted as part of the formal school trip team may be asked to observe from the spectator zone to ensure they have minimal access and interaction with children at the event.



When events take place at a school site MSSP will follow the school's own safeguarding procedures at all times. This may mean that non DBS cleared/vetted adults are not permitted on site to spectate.

Guidelines

If you think a child or young person is in need because they are suffering or likely to suffer harm, you **MUST** do the following.

1. Make a note of what you have seen or been told.
2. Don't make assumptions – keep an open mind.
3. Don't ask any leading questions and don't cross examine the child. Only ask simple and open questions – Who? What? Where? When? etc.
4. Don't physically examine the child (other than in an emergency when no first aider is available).
5. **NEVER** promise to keep 'secrets'. Explain that you can listen to them, but make it clear that if you perceive that they are in any danger of harm then you will have to seek advice because you have a duty to protect children and young people. Reassure them that they can be helped and kept safe.
6. Be discreet – do or say nothing that may place the child or yourself at risk.
7. **Act quickly. Contact a member of MSSP staff or the relevant school Teacher to raise the alarm.**

MSSP Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs L. Edwards Tel: 020 8687 1157 ex 3710 l.edwards@harrismorden.org.uk

A member of the MSSP team will be available during events to deal with any safeguarding concern at all times. As employees of Harris Academy Morden (HAMD), MSSP team will contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at HAMD or the Merton Children and Families Hub (on 020 8545 4226/7) or the Police directly if necessary.

If the disclosure or your concern relates to a member of staff, this must be shared with the Designated Safeguarding Lead person as soon as possible and nothing should be said to the person involved.

**KNOW OUR PROCEDURES – THEY ARE YOUR BOUNDARIES
THEY ARE THERE TO PROTECT YOU AS MUCH AS TO PROTECT CHILDREN**

The MSSP/HAMD Safeguarding Policy contains more detailed information about the safeguarding and protection of children and can be provided on request. All staff, visitors and volunteers should protect themselves by following these guidelines. Safe professional practice is vital for ensuring that you do not place yourself at risk.