

Mental Health & Wellbeing Across MSPS

Teaching Children Protective Behaviours.

It is important to provide our children with the knowledge, skills and strategies they need to keep themselves safe in our current world. There are a number of different unsafe situations that we need to keep our children safe from, the main four are: Physical abuse; Child sexual abuse; Emotional abuse; and Neglect.

At Malvern Springs Primary school, the teachers are trained in recognising and reporting concerns within these areas. The teachers explicitly teach the students how to protect themselves if they happen to find themselves in any of the situations. The children are given strategies on how to seek help by knowing who and where to go to get support through age appropriate lessons.

A human right that we are all *born with* cannot be taken away and does not have to be earned

All of us you, me, friends, family, strangers... everyone



The Education Department of WA defines each of these unsafe situations as follows:

Physical abuse occurs when a child is severely and/or persistently hurt or injured by an adult or a child's caregiver. It may also be the result of putting a child at risk of being injured.

Some examples are: hitting, shaking, punching; burning and scolding; excessive physical punishment or discipline; attempted suffocation; shaking a baby.

Child sexual abuse occurs when a child is exposed to, or involved in, sexual activity that is inappropriate to the child's age and developmental level. It includes circumstances where the child has less power than another person involved, is exploited or where the child has been bribed, threatened, or coerced. It also includes situations where there is a significant difference between the developmental or maturity level of the child and another person involved.

Emotional abuse occurs when an adult harms a child's development by repeatedly treating and speaking to a child in ways that damage the child's ability to feel and express their feelings.

Some examples are: constantly putting a child down; humiliating or shaming a child; not showing love, support or guidance; continually ignoring or rejecting the child; exposing the child to family violence; threatening abuse or bullying a child; threats to harm loved ones, property or pets.

Emotional abuse also includes psychological abuse and exposure to family and domestic violence.

Neglect is when a child is not provided with adequate food or shelter, effective medical, therapeutic or remedial treatment, and/or care, nurturance or supervision to a severe and/or persistent extent where the health or development of the child is significantly impaired or placed at serious risk.



[Parent Resource Website Link:](#)

[Schools and Parents Working Together to Help Keep Children Safe](#)

https://www.cavershamps.wa.edu.au/uploaded_files/media/protective_behaviours_parent_resource_october_2017_connect.pdf

EVERY CHILD EVERYWHERE FEELS SAFE.

Mrs Karen Kenny
Mental Health & Well-being
Coordinator - Level 3 Teacher