

Pupil Safeguarding Question Bank

Hearing and understanding the voice of pupils is central to safeguarding children. Creating regular opportunities to speak directly to pupils about their experiences is critical to provide assurance that safeguarding is effective in the school and to identify any areas that need further development. Knowledge and views gathered from pupils can be used by senior leaders, governors and trustees to triangulate with other sources of evidence.

This bank of questions has been collated for school leaders to discuss safeguarding with pupils. In using these, colleagues should be mindful of the specific school community and any local safeguarding trends and choose questions accordingly. Colleagues should also consider the age and level of understanding of pupils and adapt the vocabulary and way in which the questions are asked to be as appropriate and accessible as possible. Be aware that asking questions about safeguarding could retraumatise children and/or lead to disclosures, **so please speak to the DSL for advice before you use these.**

General Safeguarding Questions

1. Who is the person in charge of safeguarding (keeping children safe) at school?
2. On a scale of 1-10; how safe do you feel when you are at school? Why is that?
3. What could the school do to improve how safe you feel in school?
4. Are there any areas of the school building or school grounds that you feel less safe or unsafe? Can you tell me about those?
5. How safe do you feel on your way to and from school?
6. Why is it important for you to attend school every day?
7. Is there anything that stops you from coming to school every day?
8. How are your achievements acknowledged by the school?
9. How does the school celebrate pupils' differences/diversity? Do you feel like you can be yourself at school?
10. Do you have any interruptions when you are trying to learn? What happens if you have any?
11. How are you encouraged to show respect for others and their views?
12. Why do you think that the school encourages pupils to behave in a particular way?
13. When a child does something wrong is it dealt with fairly?
14. Do you think pupils at this school are treated fairly by adults?
15. Who is your safe adult in school? Why?
16. What do you do in school that helps you better understand life in Britain?
17. Can you give some examples of how the school has taught you to stay safe?
18. Recently (in the last 6 months), how safe have you felt at school?
19. Recently (in the last 6 months), how safe have you felt outside of school?
20. How easy is it for you to make friends at school?

Specific Concerns

1. What is bullying?
2. What would you do if you were being bullied, or see others experiencing this?
3. How does the school stop/prevent bullying?
4. How does the school respond to bullying?
5. Do you think the school handles incidents of bullying well? Why is that?
6. How well is discriminatory behaviour tackled in the school (racist/homophobic/transphobic/Islamophobic/anti-semitic/misogynistic etc)?
7. If someone was being unkind to you or hurting you in school, what would you do?
8. If someone was being unkind to you or hurting you outside of school, what would you do?
9. If you were told that you can't tell anyone about something that worries you, what would you do?
10. Is there anyone you wouldn't 'tell on'?
11. What are the ways you would feel comfortable reporting a worry or a concern in school?
12. Do you believe that when you report concerns, the school responds effectively?
13. How comfortable do you feel talking to adults in the school about any worries/concerns you have?
14. Is there anything that would stop you telling an adult if you had a worry or a concern?
15. Do you know what to do if you feel unsafe outside of school (at home or in the community)?
16. Would you tell an adult at school if you saw someone being unkind to another child?
17. When you feel sad or worried at school, what do you do?
18. How respectful are pupils in this school to one another?
19. Do other pupils in the school ever make you feel unsafe?

Relationships Education

1. On a scale of 1-10; how well do you feel that school helps you learn about what healthy relationships (with friends, family, intimate partners) should look like? Can you tell me why you chose that number?
2. On a scale of 1-10; how well do you feel that school helps you learn about being physically and mentally healthy? Can you tell me why you chose that number?
3. Do you think the RSHE/PSHE curriculum in school is up to date and appropriate for you? What would make it better?
4. If you were in charge of RSHE/PSHE education in your school for a year, what would you do to improve it?
5. What do you learn at school about how to keep healthy?
6. What do you learn at school about how to keep safe?
7. When you are learning about staying healthy and safe, what is important for you to know?
8. How confident do you think the staff are at teaching PSHE/RSHE and answering any questions you have?
9. What more would you like to learn about keeping healthy and having healthy relationships?

Online Safeguarding

1. On a scale of 1-10; how well do you think school helps you to learn about how to stay safe on devices/apps/games? Can you tell me why you chose that number?
2. Does what you learn at school about 'online safety' make any difference to how you or others behave on devices/apps/games? Has it ever helped you?
3. How does the school help you to stay safe when using the devices?
4. What advice would you give to a friend to stay safe on devices/apps/games?
5. What do you think adults in school don't understand about using devices?
6. Can you tell me any rules the school has for using the devices?
7. What would you do if a friend or another child sent you an image or message that was upsetting?
8. What do you learn at school to help you stay safe on devices/apps/games?
9. What more would you like to learn about when it comes to online safety?
10. How confident do you think the staff are at teaching online safety and answering any questions you have?
11. How good are the staff at supporting you with online safety concerns or worries?
12. What do you like to do when you are on a device (phone/tablet/laptop)? Does what you learn at school help you to be safe with this?
13. What would you love to learn more about when it comes to devices/apps/games etc.?
14. Have you ever felt unsafe on devices/apps/games? Where were you? What were you doing/using?
15. Recently (in the last 6 months), how safe have you felt on devices/apps/games?

Other Resources:

- Gathering views from pupils on PSHE (Primary/Secondary) - <https://pshe-association.org.uk/guidance/gather-pupils-views>

In using these questions, if a child discloses anything that suggests they may have experienced, or are likely to experience harm, please follow your school's safeguarding reporting procedures.

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