

Miriam Parker: Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Safety is paramount. I take safeguarding very seriously and am always committed to the highest standard of safety and wellbeing of children. Safeguarding children and adults at risk requires everyone to be fully committed to the highest possible standards of openness, integrity, and accountability.

Anyone working with children must keep in mind that they are engaged with a vulnerable group, who may be susceptible to a range of mistreatments, both physical and emotional. The welfare of children must be the top priority for any teacher or tutor, and they are bound by law to report any signs that a child is suffering from abuse, whether that abuse has taken place during lesson time, or outside it.

The purpose of this safeguarding procedure is to enable me to protect any children who come under my care and tutelage – so that I can work to my best ability, while ensuring the children in my care remain safe.

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from nspcc.org.uk/childprotection.

As the owner and sole tutor for MathsIntuition I consider it my responsibility to conduct myself in a professional and considerate manner. I have received Safeguarding training as a teacher and also through [ThirtyOne:Eight](https://thirtyoneeight.org/training-and-events/). I understand the procedures I am mandated to follow should I learn, or suspect, that a child is being abused or mistreated in any way.

I have a current DBS certificate (enhanced) which I will show to any parent who requests to see it. I also have up to date First Aid Training.

My duties as a tutor:

To create and maintain a safe and secure environment for their pupils.

To comply with the health and safety guidance of the venue (Colchester Sports Park)

To communicate the fire safety and evacuation procedure for the venue, to parents and students.

To hold more than one emergency contact detail for each student and knowledge of any medical concerns

To treat all their students with civility, and without prejudice, regardless of age, gender reassignment, disability, race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief and sex.

To employ appropriate language with students, and not utter any discriminatory terms.
To not stray from a teacher-student relationship, and to not send any inappropriate communications to the pupil.
To be sensitive in my judgement of the student’s work, and value the effort they have put into it.
To never be alone with a student – all tutoring sessions will be conducted with at least two students, or otherwise in a public area. Group sessions of two students or more will be conducted in a room with a window view through the door from a public space or with the door open to a public space.
To treat any pupils with a disability appropriately and with consideration.
To create and maintain a suitable tutoring environment, containing no inappropriate images or documents.

To record and store and use information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance *[more information about this is available from the Information Commissioner’s Office: ico.org.uk/for- organisations]*

To share information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families when the child is registered for tuition

To make sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern.

Designated Safeguarding Officer

As the owner and sole tutor of MathsIntuition I am the Designated Safeguarding Officer. It is my task to record any details I observe. I will write a clear and well organised report, containing all the information relayed to them. I will then make a decision on how best to proceed.

If there is a safeguarding concern about myself, please contact the Local Authority Designated Officer on 03330 139 797or email lado@essex.gov.uk or the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000

Definitions of Abuse

It is important to be aware that many of the forms of abuse can take place either online or in person.

Physical Abuse​: physical injury to a child where there is knowledge, or a reasonable suspicion, that their injury was inflicted or knowingly not prevented.

Neglect​: the persistent or severe neglect of a child that results in serious impairment of the child's health or development (both physical and mental).

Emotional Abuse​: the persistent or severe emotional ill-treatment of a child which has severe adverse effects on the behaviour and emotional development of that child. This may involve serious bullying ​(including cyberbullying).

Sexual Abuse​: the involvement of dependent, developmentally immature children and adolescents in sexual activities they do not truly comprehend, to which they are unable to give informed consent. ​Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse.

Grooming:​ When someone builds an emotional connection with a child or a young person to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse or exploitation.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) ​and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)​: Where an individual or group uses an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual or criminal activity. In some cases, this is in exchange for something the victim wants and may benefit the perpetrator or facilitator (e.g. financially or through increased status).

Self Abuse:​ Any means by which a child or young person seeks to harm themselves. This can take lots of physical forms, including cutting, bruising, scratching, hair-pulling, poisoning, overdosing and eating disorders.

Peer on peer abuse: ​Abuse of a child by another child. Examples of this include bullying, physical abuse, sexual violence or harrassment, upskirting (taking a picture under another person’s clothing without consent), sexting and initiation/ hazing violence and rituals.

Mental Health Concerns

Mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Definition of bullying:

Bullying can be defined as action undertaken by an individual or group, to deliberately cause suffering to another individual or group. The injurious action can be physical or emotional, and usually takes place over a protracted period of time, often weeks or months, or even across many years.

The victim may be marked out because of their race, gender, sexual orientation, their intelligence, or their special educational needs or disabilities.

Bullying can take place almost anywhere – in the classroom, the playground, or on the way to and from school. The primary form of the abuse may be physical, consisting of violent assaults, along with theft or destruction of the victim’s property. Another mode of bullying may be verbal, the perpetrators spreading slanderous lies about the victim, or giving them derisive names.

Another form of bullying is to ostracise a child, to exclude them from group activities.

Online bullying is another form of intimidation. Our technological age unfortunately means that bullies can continue to persecute their victim long after they have left school grounds. Even in the ‘safety’ of their own home, children can be intimidated on social media, their computer or phone offering endless opportunity for subjugation and belittlement.

Such ‘cyberbullying’ can take the form of posting cruel messages, or sharing embarrassing photos and videos. Cyberbullying can be hard to spot, as I will not naturally have access to student’s social media accounts, but I will pay attention to students who seem distressed whenever they check their phone or computer.

to spot.

Procedures I will follow if I suspect a child is at risk of abuse of bullying:

If I have discerned signs a child has been bullied or abused, or if a safeguarding allegation is brought to my attention, I am bound by law to take the appropriate steps. The most important thing is to treat the matter seriously, so I will not dismiss the matter.

I will follow the procedure for contacting the local authority’s Social Services Department – or I may decide to contact the local Police Child Protection Unit. I will then work with these departments, supplying them with any further information they might need in their investigations. I will not at any point undertake independent inquiries in the case of a safeguarding allegation.

As the owner and sole tutor of MathsIntuition, I will be in possession of the names and contact details of a number of children, and will have a legal obligation to keep this information secure and confidential, in accordance with GDPR guidelines.

Useful contacts:

Miriam Parker (MathsIntuition)

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mathsintuitioncolchester@gmail.com

Local Authority Designated Officer

 03330 139 797

 lado@essex.gov.uk

NSPCC

0808 800 5000

Updated 27th June 2022 by Miriam Parker