



Safeguarding questions for parents and carers (Draft, DfE 2018)

For many parents the summer can be a time when they book their children into summer camps, activity days and child-care settings. Last year the government consulted on a voluntary safeguarding code for out-of-school settings. Although the outcome of the consultation has not been published, a draft was made available.

In addition to the code for providers, the DfE published draft guidance for parents, in the form of 'Safeguarding questions for parents and carers (DfE, 2018)'. It might be useful to send these questions out to parents, so they can be confident about asking appropriate questions of the people they intend to leave their children with.

Some of the questions parents could ask include:

- Have staff and volunteers undertaken DBS checks? How recent were the checks?
- Will any adults besides the instructor be present at the venue while my child is there? If so, will they be there on a regular basis?
- What training have staff had?
- May I have a copy of your child protection policy?
- Who is your designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and what training have they had? How recent was this training?
- My child has Special Educational Needs and / or a disability (SEND). What steps will you take to accommodate this?
- My child needs help with: using the toilet; changing; feeding; their medication, etc. How will these personal care needs be addressed?
- How are you securely storing the information you hold on my child? Who has access to it and are you giving it to anyone else?
- Is my child allowed to access the internet unsupervised?
- Do you have filtering and monitoring systems in place? What are they?

In addition to the questions to ask, the draft guidance for parents sets out some 'red flags' that the might prompt parents to send their children to a 'different setting'. The red flags are:

- Staff are not DBS checked
- No child protection policy
- Signs of abuse on other children who attend the setting, for example, unexplained bruises
- Provider unable to name a designated safeguarding lead
- The designated safeguarding lead has not had relevant training
- If the OOSS allows children access to the internet, no filtering or monitoring systems in place
- Dangerous physical environment e.g. loose wires, damp, no fire escape, no first aid kit
- No designated first aider
- No parental consent form or requirement for emergency contact details
- Other adults coming into the out-of-school setting who are not staff members / a lack of clarity on the roles of different adults in the setting
- No health and safety policy
- No fire escape plan