



Keeping Your Child Safe at School:

A Guide for Parents

Everything You Need to Know About Safeguarding & Child Protection

We're All Responsible for Safety

Every adult in our school community — teachers, staff, governors, and volunteers—works together to keep children safe. We make sure that everyone receives regular safeguarding training to stay up-to-date with the latest guidance and best practices for child protection. If you ever have a worry about your child or another child, please speak to any member of staff. We're here to help.

The Designated Safeguarding Leader at our school is Mrs. Yates, our Headteacher. Mrs. Swift and Mrs. Beevers are our backup Designated Safeguarding Leaders.

Understanding Different Types of Abuse

Children can sometimes be harmed in different ways. Here's what that means.

- **Physical abuse** – This is when someone intentionally hurts a child's body, like hitting, slapping, or causing physical pain.
- **Emotional abuse** – This happens when someone says or does things that make a child feel very sad, frightened, or unloved. It can include constant criticism, rejection, or making a child feel worthless.
- **Sexual abuse** – This is when someone involves a child in any sexual activity or talks to them in a way that is inappropriate for their age. It's important to know this can be both physical actions and verbal comments.
- **Neglect** – Neglect is when a child's basic needs, like food, clothing, care, or affection, are not met. It means not giving a child what they need to grow up healthy, safe, and happy.

How We Safeguard Children

Our job is to keep every child safe. If we're worried about a child, we will always speak to them and listen carefully to what they say. In most cases, we will talk to you and discuss our worries or concerns. We want all children to feel safe, valued, and able to share their thoughts with us.

Early Help for Families

If you or your child needs some extra help, we can offer support early on—before things become difficult. Sometimes, life can bring unexpected challenges that make it harder to look after your children. Circumstances such as debt, bereavement, mental health issues, domestic abuse, alcoholism, or drug use can all impact your ability to cope. The aim of early help is to offer support or guidance at these times, making sure both you and your child are managing well and have what you need to feel safe and secure.

This could involve advice, extra support in school, or putting you in touch with other services. It does not automatically mean that your family will be referred to social care and have your children removed. This is a misconception about social care.

Social Care

A referral to social care is only made when there are significant concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing—such as if there is a risk of harm, serious neglect, or if a child's needs cannot be met through school or early help support alone. The primary goal of social care is to work with families to keep children safe and help them thrive at home. Removal of children is only ever considered as a last resort when all other options have been exhausted and a child remains at risk.

If you ever need to contact Lancashire Children's Social Care directly, you can call 0300 123 6720 (or 0300 123 6722 between 5:00 PM and 8:00 AM).

Operation Encompass - Police

If there has been an incident at home, Mrs Yates or Mrs Swift will receive a short report from the police. This report gives us a brief idea of what happened so we can make sure your child gets the right support. If this happens to your family, we will talk to you to understand what has happened and discuss how we can help your child.

Domestic Abuse

Children can be deeply affected not only by direct abuse, but also by witnessing or hearing domestic abuse at home. Sadly, situations like these are more common than many people realise. Seeing or experiencing this kind of harm can impact their emotional wellbeing, sense of safety, and development. If you or your child are experiencing any kind of domestic abuse, please know that support is available and we are here to help you find it. Anything you share with us will be kept private and handled with care. We are also able to signpost to services that can help you.

Online Safety

The internet is a big part of children's lives for learning and fun, but it can also present risks. We teach children how to stay safe online, including how to use privacy settings, recognise unsafe behavior, and speak up if they feel uncomfortable. If you have questions about online safety or need advice, our team is always happy to help guide you and your child.

It's important for parents and guardians to actively monitor their children's use of the internet, phones, computers, gaming consoles, and tablets like iPads. These devices can provide children with opportunities to learn and connect—but they can also expose them to dangers such as inappropriate content, online bullying, or contact with strangers. By keeping an eye on what your child is doing online, setting clear boundaries, and having regular conversations about their digital experiences, you can help protect them from potential risks. If you have any concerns or want guidance on setting up safe use of technology at home, please come to speak to Mrs Swift, our Online Safety leader or Mrs Sheridan, our Computing Leader.

Other People You Can Talk To in School

We want every child and parent to know that there are several friendly adults in our school who are here to help. If you ever feel worried, sad, or just need someone to talk to, you're not alone. Alongside your teachers and our Designated Safeguarding Leaders, here are some other people you can turn to:

- **Mrs Beevers – Senior Mental Health Leader**

Mrs Beevers is our Senior Mental Health Leader. She's here to support your emotional wellbeing and help you with any worries or big feelings you might have. You can talk to her about anything that's on your mind.

- **Ashley Barrow Play Therapist** – someone who helps children express their feelings through play.
- **Joanne Beasdale School counsellor** – a friendly adult who listens and helps with worries or big feelings.

Things to remember when you come into school

- **Always sign in and out at the school office:** For everyone's safety, all visitors — including parents and guardians — must sign in when they arrive and sign out when they leave. This helps us know who is on site at all times.
- **Keep mobile phones away:** Please do not use your phone while on school grounds. Phones should be kept out of sight and not used for taking photos or videos.
- **Do not share images or videos of children without permission:** Never share or post photos or videos of any children, other than your own, unless you have received permission from that child's parent or guardian.
- **Watch your child closely at drop off and pick up:** Make sure your child is safely handed over to their teacher at the start of the day and collected promptly at pick up. Please keep a close eye on your child during these times to ensure their safety.
- **Only you may pick up your child** unless you give permission for someone else to do so.
- We kindly request that all parents follow the school's **Parent Code of Conduct** while on school grounds, as we serve as role models for our children.
- **No smoking or vaping on school grounds:** This keeps children safe from harmful smoke and vape exposure and promotes healthy habits.
- **No dogs:** With the exception of our school dog and registered service animals, dogs are not allowed on school property. Our school dog is part of our community and is carefully supervised to ensure the wellbeing and comfort of all children and adults.

If you ever have worries or questions about your child's safety, please talk to us. We are here to support you and your family. If you have any questions, worries, or just want to talk, please come and see us. Together, we'll make sure every child is safe, happy, and ready to learn!