



FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Safeguarding Newsletter: Autumn 2025

"Safeguarding... Everybody... Everyday"



Who to contact if you have concerns about a child:

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies straightaway.

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999.

If you have urgent concerns for a child, or suspect that a child has been abused in anyway and needs an urgent response, please call the Cumberland Safeguarding Hub immediately on 0333 240 1727

Meet the Safeguarding Team at Fairfield Primary School:



Mr. C. Steele
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mr. J. Gale
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs. H. Birkett
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mrs. S. Johnston
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mrs. L. Fisher
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mrs. C. Jones
Safeguarding Governor

Mr. J. Gale (Head of School and the Designated Safeguarding Lead- DSL) can be contacted via email (deputyhead@fairfieldprimary.co.uk), via Dojo or by telephoning the school office on: 01900 821133.

Our Policies:

For a copy of our school's Child Protection Policy, and other related safeguarding policies, please visit the safeguarding page(s) on our school website: [Safeguarding | Fairfield Primary School](#)



Dear parents/guardians,

At Fairfield Primary School, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is our number one priority and it is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes in to contact with the children and families, who comprise our community, has a role to play. Everything that we do has the children at the core. Their safety, their wellbeing, their achievement and, of course, their happiness underpins every decision we make.

Often when safeguarding is mentioned, the immediate thought is about child protection – when a child is suffering harm, or is in danger of suffering harm. However, safeguarding is much more complex than this and encompasses a very wide range of areas in all aspects of school. At Fairfield, we ensure that all of our staff are highly trained in all aspects of safeguarding and this training is regularly updated and frequently revisited throughout the year. We also ensure that our curriculum provides the children with age-appropriate opportunities to learn how to keep themselves healthy and safe.

In this first issue of our safeguarding newsletter of this academic year, we will re-introduce you to the school's Designated Safeguarding Team, provide information from the DfE document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2025, hear from our Chair of Governors and Safeguarding Governor (Mrs. C. Jones), outline key information in relation to the importance of attendance and punctuality as well as share some key reminders linked to mental health and road safety.

As ever, if you require any support, guidance or further information, please do not hesitate to either speak to me in person or contact me directly.

Mr. J. Gale (Designated Safeguarding Lead).



Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025:

Keeping Children Safe in Education is a statutory Department for Education document that all schools are required to follow when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It covers many aspects of safeguarding, including different forms of abuse, early help processes, safer-recruitment, how concerns must be reported and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Parents and guardians are encouraged to stay informed about the latest guidance on keeping children safe in education. The guidance provides a framework for safeguarding children and includes resources and training for parents and educators. Parents can access the guidance through the official UK government website.

Click here for the full document:

[Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK](#)

Meet our Safeguarding Governor:

What does a Safeguarding Governor do?

I am the school's Safeguarding Governor and wanted to share with you what this role entails and how it benefits the children and their families. It is a strategic role, ensuring that the school has a clear, robust, achievable, and complete school-wide approach to safeguarding, ensuring all children are safe and secure. I also confirm that policies and procedures are produced, implemented, and embedded as well as testing the school's effectiveness and legal compliance with safeguarding requirements.

I meet with Mr Gale, as the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead, every half term where I ask questions, test progress against identified development areas, and the current position with statutory training. I then write and present a report to the Local Governing Board where, if required, we explore specific topics in more detail with the school representatives to identify any actions.

However, my favourite part of the role is engaging with the staff and pupils. Through asking them questions I can truly test that the staff and pupils understand what safeguarding means to them - either as a trusted adult or as a child in the school setting. This provides me with confidence that the school's strategies, training, and development areas are addressed, demonstrably implemented, and well communicated. I am happy to report that all staff I have worked with have demonstrated a clear passion and understanding of their safeguarding duties and legal requirements. More importantly, your wonderful children have always been able to answer questions clearly and with positivity.

I am confident that the school responds to - and addresses - any concerns or issues quickly and effectively and, through my monitoring sessions, can see why the school is recognised for its excellent provisions in what is, in my opinion, the most important aspect of the school.

As well as being a member of the Local Governing Board, I am also a parent of two children who attend the school. Switching to 'parent mode' for a moment, I feel confident and assured of my daughters' happiness, safety, and inclusion at the school.

Mrs. C. Jones (Chair of Governors & Safeguarding Governor).



Mental Health:

Last month, we celebrated World Mental Health Day. The day aims to remind us of the importance of good mental health and the need to prioritise and invest in this. This year's theme was 'access to services - mental health in catastrophes and emergencies'. The theme highlights the importance of people being able to protect their mental health in times of global instability.

At Fairfield Primary School, we focus on mental health and well-being every day of the year.

Through our extensive and long-established pastoral care, we help to improve the well-being of all our pupils. Our highly experienced pastoral team deliver intervention ranging from highly effective one-to-one counselling/social and emotional support to Draw and Talk Therapy, Emotional Literacy Support as well as highly successful Nurture Groups. Through our bespoke PSHE curriculum, teachers explore situations and scenarios to equip children with the resilience to cope with all aspects in life.

We believe that promoting social, emotional and mental well-being for all those involved in the school community, is key to providing the best possible learning environment and all staff remain committed to this; it is a fundamental aspect of our school ethos.

Overwhelm: when global events and relentless bad news become too much:

Sometimes, it can feel like the world is constantly in crisis. We've lived through a pandemic, a climate crisis and times of social injustice. Between these issues and global conflicts, economic instability and political unrest, bad news may seem like it's everywhere.

In addition, thanks to smartphones and social media, we have round-the-clock access to the latest news. Staying informed about what's happening in the world can be a good thing. However, having 24/7 access to current events means there's potentially no limit to how much we consume.

Constantly hearing about negative news from around the world can feel like a lot to take in – and that's because it is. Feeling overwhelmed by current events, no matter how big or small, can take a toll on our mental health, and the mental health of the children and young people we work with.

In the digital age, managing how much information we take on board might feel impossible, but you can take control and limit the impact of global overwhelm on your well-being.

The Mental Health Foundation have created some top tips about how you, and the children and young people in your family, can manage overwhelm during global events and relentless bad news, which can be accessed here: [World Mental Health Day – Top Tips](#)

Road Safety:

On at least an annual basis, we dedicate time in our whole-school assembly timetable to remind the children of key information in relation to Road Safety.

We held this assembly last half-term. As ever, it is vital that the key messages, including the ones outlined below, are reinforced by parents/guardians at home so together we can ensure our pupils are fully educated on this essential aspect of personal safety. This is, of course, particularly important for our older children, who may walk/cycle to school independently. We always advise that any independent commuters, practise a safe route to school with a trusted adult beforehand- including understanding where it is safe to cross any roads.

Some key messages:

- Manage distractions: minimise talking/ no texting/ looking at technology/ listening to music on the roadside.
- When travelling inside of a vehicle, always wear your seatbelt and do not cause distraction to the driver.
- Remember the Green Cross Code, i.e. find a safe place to cross (do not cross between parked vehicles/ on corners- ideally use a zebra/pelican/puffin crossing); stop before the kerb; look both ways (repeatedly) and listen for traffic; when it is safe, cross the road but continue to keep looking around and do not run.
- Make sure you are seen! On dark evenings/mornings, make sure you stand out by wearing reflective clothing/ some sort of appropriate light (further information below).



As part of our Safeguarding and PSHE Curriculums, children engage in specific Road Safety work and linked activities.

5 top tips on how to be bright and be seen...

1. Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when children are heading to and from school.
2. If children are out and about when it's dark, they should wear reflective items to make sure they can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
3. Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your child's clothing or school bag are a great way to improve their visibility.
4. If your child likes to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
5. Of course, 'Being Bright' helps drivers to see children more clearly but that won't guarantee to keep them road safe. They will still need to make sure that they follow the road safety advice (above).

Recent Celebrations:

As ever, many fabulous activities have taken place over the last few weeks in relation to Safeguarding. We have welcomed Cumbria Fire and Rescue into school to deliver their annual seasons talk on both Halloween and Bonfire Safety. Our Mini-Police have been active around school, and the wider community as they begin their important work. As well as this, exciting and informative Road Safety Workshops have taken place for many of our younger learners and last week, we participated in Anti-Bullying Week by wearing our odd socks and creating class pledges linked to this year's theme 'the power of good'.

Safeguarding and the promotion of pupil well-being (including their mental health) is at the heart of our ethos at Fairfield Primary School. Due to this, great importance is placed on identifying opportunities within the curriculum for children to learn about safeguarding.

Our broad, balanced and diverse curriculum gives Fairfield pupils the chance to experience life in all its diversity, to acquire knowledge, understanding and skills that significantly impact on personal development, behaviour and welfare; thus, equipping every child with the knowledge and skills required to keep themselves safe, happy and healthy both now and in their future.

For further information, please read our detailed 'Safeguarding in the Curriculum' document below: [Safeguarding Curriculum | Fairfield Primary School](#)

Online Parent Sessions:

As you are aware, we have teamed up with YGam (the organisation who delivered Gaming & Gambling Workshops to pupils during last year's Safeguarding Week) to bring you a host of E-Safety Parent Sessions/ Workshops.

'Let's Explore' Series: YGam's 'Let's Explore Series' takes a deep dive into specific games in detail, designed to look at the key features of the game, how they appeal to young people, in-game spending and how to utilise the parental settings within the game.

These online workshops aim to help build confidence with parents, guardians and wider family members by building knowledge of the games and topics to encourage conversations around healthy gaming at home.

Upcoming sessions:

Minecraft: Thursday 20th November (6pm-7pm) - [click here to book your place](#) or Wednesday 17th December (12:30pm-1:30pm) - [click here to book your place](#)

Roblox: Friday 5th December (12noon-1pm) - [click here to book your place](#)

Digital Lives: Tuesday 25th November (6pm-7:30pm) - [click here to book](#) or Tuesday 2nd December (12noon -1:30pm) - [click here to book](#)

It would be great to see you there!

Attendance Matters:

At Fairfield, we continue to work hard to maintain our excellent attendance levels and to reduce incidences of lateness. Our whole school attendance is currently **97.3%**.

Attendance facts:

- All schools must report their termly attendance percentages to the Local Authority.
- Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child receives a full-time education.
- Parents can be issued with a fixed penalty notice for failing to ensure their child attends school regularly – this includes taking a child out of school on holiday..
- The Local Authority has the power to prosecute parents in the magistrate's court for the offence of failing to ensure their child attends school regularly.
- If your child arrives after 9.15am we are required to mark them as having an unauthorised absence for the whole morning – arriving after 9.15am once in a week brings their attendance down to 90% for that week.

Good attendance plays a vital role in helping your child to achieve their potential. We also know that poor attendance can lead to other problems for children. Children who do not attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Fall behind in their school work
- Find it difficult to make and keep friends
- Be unhappy at school
- Misbehave so that others cannot see that they are finding the work difficult
- Learn poor attendance habits that follow through to secondary school and future employment

Poor punctuality can also disadvantage children in many ways:

- Being frequently late adds up to lost learning. For example, arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks of the year
- When children are late they find it harder to settle in to the routine of the day
- When children arrive late they often miss key messages and teaching which continues to have an effect on their learning for the rest of the lesson or day
- Poor punctuality disrupts the class and is embarrassing for the child
- Your child being late disturbs the learning of the whole class

*Getting here on time every day really is important in helping your child to become a happy and successful learner.
Every day really does count!*

How can you help your child attend school regularly and on time?

Get everything ready for school, the night before	Talk positively to your child about school	Arrange appointments (where possible) outside of school time	Take a positive interest in your child's work, including their homework
Show your child that you are interested in what they have done in school	Make sure your child understands why school is important	Children can attend school if they are taking medication- speak to us if you are unsure	Set your alarm and an alarm for your child – see who can beat the clock!
	Avoid taking holidays in term time- this is essential!	We can administer certain medications in school, with parental authority	

If your child is just slightly under the weather, still send them in to school. Children often feel better as the day goes on and they get busy. If school is worried, we will call! This NHS article provides great advice for parents/guardians regarding this: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/health/a-z/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/)

Please also ensure that you:

- Keep in touch with school staff – we may be able to help you with advice and support
- Contact school on the first day of absence if your child is unable to attend for whatever reason and keep in contact on subsequent days – please do not report absences via Class Dojo
- Make sure school has up-to-date contact details
- Attend meetings about your child's attendance if you are invited to do so. At these meetings we can agree an action plan so that school, parents and children can work together to improve things