



FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Safeguarding Newsletter: Autumn 2024

"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. C. Jones
Safeguarding Governor

Mr. J. Gale (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,

Welcome to the first safeguarding newsletter of a brand-new academic year! In particular, welcome to our new families.

As we start the year, I would like to remind you all that 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, we will re-introduce you to the school's Designated Safeguarding Team, provide information from the DfE document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2024, outline key information in relation to the importance of attendance and punctuality as well as sharing some key dates and information with you.

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 2024:

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

Click here for the full document:

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

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 for the first half-term was **97.5%**.

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- a letter was sent to you on 05/11/24 from the Local Authority outlining the revised approach.
- 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

Useful Safeguarding Acronyms and Vocabulary:

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead

MASH: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

CP: Child Protection

CiN: Child in Need

KCSIE: Keeping Children Safe in Education

PREVENT: Part of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn in to extremism

CAMHS: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

SEND: Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

The Safeguarding Curriculum:

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.

We plan to constantly challenge children to think deeply about safeguarding matters and their own personal physical and mental wellbeing. We value pupils' questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas, and concerns. We give pupils opportunities across the curriculum to explore values, personal rights, responsibilities, and equal opportunities which develop moral concepts that impact positively on safeguarding, promote British Values and prevent radicalisation and extremism. There are many opportunities throughout our learning in school to explore safeguarding issues.

For further information, please read our detailed 'Safeguarding in the Curriculum' document below:

[Safeguarding Curriculum | Fairfield Primary School](#)

Some key safeguarding dates for this half-term:

Mini-Police & Cumbria Constabulary Assembly:

'Bonfire, Firework and Community Safety'

Monday 4th November

Year 1 Road Safety Workshop

Tuesday 5th November

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service: Assembly & Workshop

Tuesday 5th November

Markus Campbell-Savours (MP) School Visit: MP Workshop & Assembly

Friday 8th November

Anti-Bullying Week 2024

W/C Monday 11th November

Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership: Online Safety Parent Workshop

Wednesday 4th December at 3.30pm

Other events will be added as the term progresses and further information regarding these events will be communicated closer to the time.



An Important Message from Cumbria Constabulary:

There have been reports recently of children across the north of the country as well as in Cumbria being added to large groups on social media apps, such as WhatsApp.

There are numerous risks to children and young people when using chat apps such as being added to group chats where they don't know the other people in the group, and also the increased chance they will come across upsetting or negative messages.

Check to see if your child is part of any group chats;

Consider removing them immediately from unknown groups if they are a member;

Consider reporting the group to the relevant social media platform if there is inappropriate content; and

Notify the police if you come across any particularly serious or harmful content.

For more advice and information on this please visit: <https://orlo.uk/nAPKv>

