



FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Safeguarding Newsletter: Spring 2, 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 any way 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. L. Barrow
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 our fourth safeguarding newsletter at Fairfield Primary School. These half-termly newsletters aim to provide you with key information and the latest guidance in relation to safeguarding and keeping children safe in education.

As we approach the summer term, this edition outlines some key messages in relation to sun safety, car safety and some important reminders in relation to attendance.

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).

Sun Protection

As part of our Safeguarding Curriculum, pupils participate in discussions regarding keeping themselves safe in the sun. In school, we teach this by using the SunSmart prevention message(s), promoted by using the SMART code...

Stay in the shade 11am-3pm

Make sure you never burn

Always cover up with a t-shirt, hat and sunglasses

Remember to take extra care and don't look directly at the sun

Then use at least factor 15+ sunscreen (30+ is considered best)

With better weather on the horizon (fingers crossed for a glorious summer term) we'd like to take the opportunity to remind you of the following key points in relation to our Sun Protection Policy:

- Please apply sun cream before the start of school. There are proprietary products on the market which only need to be applied once per day.
- If your child brings in sun cream, it should be handed to a member of staff or placed on the teacher's desk; please can all pupils' sun cream/sticks/roll-on be clearly labelled. Pupils ought to be able to apply this themselves within supervision of an adult.

Uniform changes are permitted in relation to sun protection, these include the following:

- Sunhats will be considered to be part of school uniform and children will be actively encouraged to wear them.
- During PE/trips/other special events, children are encouraged to wear tops that cover their shoulders (vests and strappy tops are discouraged).
- Children are allowed to wear UV protective sunglasses when outside during sunny weather.

For hydration purposes, please ensure your child attends school each day with a water bottle- labelled if possible.



Car Seat Awareness

This article outlines the UK law on use of car seats and child safety in cars as a reminder for all parents/ guardians. At Fairfield, we are pleased to see many children walking, cycling and scooting to school now that the weather is beginning to improve and lighter mornings/ evenings are on the horizon. Nevertheless, the summer months also deliver many travel opportunities for families, so we wanted to take the time to outline these key reminders.

Did you know?

“Seat belts did not become a legal requirement for rear passengers until 1987? Even more remarkably the use of children’s car seats wasn’t made a legal requirement until 2006! Since then, all infants from birth until a certain age or height must be in a specially designed car seat. This is a legal requirement and failure to do so will likely result in you receiving a £500 fine but, of course, the threat of a cash fine pales into insignificance when compared to the realities and outcomes of an accident.”

Main points of the law:

- 1) Height based seats are required to used REAR FACING for a minimum of 15 months.
- 2) A suitable* child car seat must be used until the child reaches a height of 135cms or 12 years old, whichever is reached first. *suitable = a seat that is intended for the child’s height, weight and the vehicle it is to be used in.

The purpose of the regulations and the law is to improve levels of safety for children in vehicles. It is our responsibility to ensure our children are protected to the best of our ability.

What are the legal requirements for rear-facing car seats?

New laws dictate that children must travel in rear-facing car seats until they are 15 months old. Furthermore, you must never fit a rear-facing car seat in the front of your car where there is an active passenger airbag.

What are the legal requirements for forward-facing car seats?

From 15 months old onwards, it is believed that your child’s neck will be strong enough to more reasonably handle the impact of an accident and, therefore, forward-facing car seats may be used. However, it is recommended that rear-facing seats are used for as long as possible.

When can a child legally travel without a car seat?

In the UK, children must be restrained in a car seat until they are 12 years old or at least 135cm tall. From that point onwards, they must use a seat belt like all adults.

There are a few exceptions to this:

- A child can travel in a taxi or mini-cab without a car seat if the driver doesn’t provide one however, they must wear a seat belt.
- The same rule applies for coaches and minibuses – children must travel in rear seats and use seat belts.
- If you have to make a short, unexpected journey as an emergency, it is legally acceptable to restrain your child with just a seatbelt instead of a car seat providing your child is 3 years or older.
- Children with special or additional needs or medical conditions will have bespoke requirements outside of normal laws. Usually, they are required to be restrained by means designed for their needs.

While these exceptions exist, it is advisable not to take any unnecessary risks. Accidents happen in buses and taxis too.



Attendance Matters:

At Fairfield, we continue to work hard to maintain our excellent attendance levels and to reduce incidences of lateness.

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/when-should-i-worry-if-my-child-is-ill/)

Attendance Matters Continued:

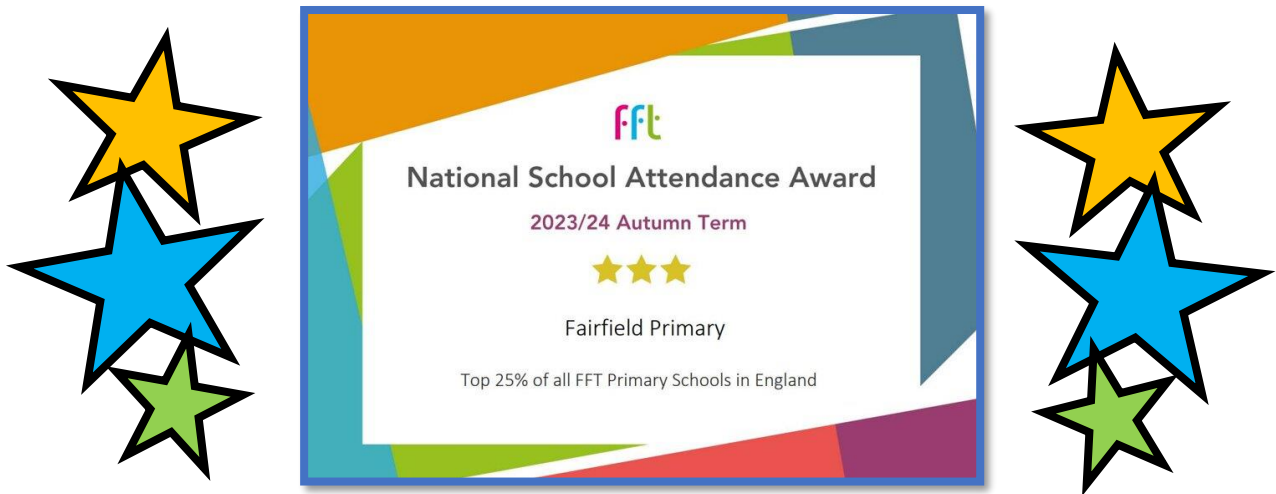
Please also ensure that you:

- 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

Attendance Award:

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the FFT National School Attendance Award for the 2023/24 Autumn Term! This accolade recognises the incredible dedication of our staff, children, parents/ guardians in achieving outstanding attendance. Ranked in the top 25% of all primary schools and the top 10% of similar schools nationally, this achievement highlights our commitment to 'every day matters'.

We are incredibly proud of our whole school community.



Online Safety (E-Safety): Reminders of the minimum age for popular apps:



Facebook (minimum age 13) – lets users create their own profiles, share status updates, pictures, videos and chat with other users and also has a messenger app.



Instagram (minimum age 13) – allows users to alter photos, upload them and share to other social networking sites. Photos and videos can be sent directly to specific users.



Snapchat (minimum age 13) – a photo-sharing app where users can send photos or videos to their friends. These will display on screen for up to ten seconds before being deleted, although it is possible to take screenshots of messages and download other apps designed to capture and save Snapchat content.



TikTok (minimum age 13) – TikTok users can make their own short videos on the mobile app and often like to have music accompany these. The users have creative control over the videos. Other TikTok users can 'react' to videos they see by filming their responses alongside the original video, or 'duet' by making a video alongside another video.



Twitter (minimum age 13) – a social network that lets users send and read 'Tweets': messages limited to 280 characters.



Tumblr (minimum age 16) – a social networking site where users can post blogs and follow other people's blogs. Some of the content on this site includes sexual and/or pornographic images.



WhatsApp (minimum age 16) – a free-of-charge, real-time messaging service. Users can share images and videos, take part in 'group chats' and share locations. As it's based on knowing the user's phone number, you can only message users if you already have this information.



YouTube (minimum age 16) – allows users to watch, create and comment on videos. The dislike button can create insecurities with content posted even if comments are turned off for the video.