Dear Parents

Welcome to our new safeguarding newsletter. Each half term we will publish a newsletter giving some key messages and reminders about how we can all work together to keep our children safe.

At Ferndown First School we have a responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the children in our school. We have a Safeguarding Children Policy, which outlines the school’s responsibilities and duties in terms of safeguarding. This is in place to protect children from harm whilst at, and outside of school. We have summarised the key points below and explain how you can help safeguard all children in our care.

### What is a Designated Safeguarding Lead?

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) takes the lead on all safeguarding matters within the school. At Ferndown First School, this is Mr Watts (Head teacher). There are also Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads within the school, who support with safeguarding concerns.

We listen to our pupils and take seriously what they tell us. All our staff receive safeguarding awareness training and children are aware of the adults they can talk to if they have any concerns. Our nominated Safeguarding Governor is Mrs Lif Bishop.

---

**Our Safeguarding Team is made up of…**

- **Mr Sean Watts**  
  Headteacher  
  Designated Safeguarding Lead  
  Designated Person with responsibility for Drug Issues

- **Mrs Katy Errington**  
  Deputy Head Teacher  
  Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

- **Mrs Beth Bramley**  
  School Support Worker  
  Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

- **Miss Tracey Piddock**  
  SENCO  
  Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

- **Mrs Sarah King**  
  KS1 Phase Leader  
  Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

- **Mrs Amanda Lord**  
  KS2 Phase Leader  
  Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
  Designated Person with responsibility for Children in Care

---

Tel: 01202 873747  
www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk
**How do we keep children safe?**

We create a safe learning environment and ensure children know who they can talk to if they are upset or worried about anything. We also provide opportunities for children to develop their understanding of risks and keeping themselves safe through education on internet safety awareness, positive relationships, bullying etc. We are committed to keeping our pupils safe. Any concerns are reported to a Designated Safeguarding Lead who will then take any action needed to ensure the wellbeing and safety of our children.

Our first priority is your child’s welfare and we will usually discuss with you any concerns we have about your child. However, there might be rare occasions when we must provide information to or consult other agencies, such as Children’s Services Social Care, before contacting you.

**What puts children at risk?**

There are four main forms of abuse. These can be summarised as:

- **Physical abuse** - Causing physical harm to a child, such as hitting, shaking, throwing, inducing illness etc.

- **Emotional abuse** - Maltreatment of a child affecting their emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless, unloved or inadequate. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child.

- **Sexual abuse** - Forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities. This may involve physical contact or non-contact activities such as involving children in looking at sexual images or grooming a child (including via the internet).

- **Neglect** - Inability to meet a child’s basic needs, impairing a child’s health or development. This may involve a parent/carer failing to provide adequate food and clothing or an inability to protect a child from physical and emotional harm.

**How is information used?**

Confidential records are kept of any safeguarding concerns and information is shared on a need-to-know basis. We are notified by the police if they attend any incidents involving domestic abuse in a household where the child attends our school. We follow procedures laid down by the Dorset Local Safeguarding Board which means on occasions that we have to consult other agencies. We aim to discuss concerns with parents/carers before any referrals are made unless we believe that such a move may be contrary to a child’s welfare.
NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe

Parents may find the NSPPC resources useful to support conversations with their children around

- children’s understanding of their right to be heard
- behaviours that are OK and what is not OK
- privates are private
- trusted adults
- reminders about Childline


NSPCC - The Underwear Rule

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The NSPCC promotes ‘The Underwear Rule’ Campaign which aims to raise awareness of the importance of talking to children about keeping safe from sexual abuse. Ferndown First School are supporting the NSPCC in their campaign and feel it is important to teach our children how to keep safe.

‘The Underwear Rule’ teaches them that:

- their body belongs to them
- they have a right to say no
- they should always tell an adult if they’re upset or worried.

Here is the link to the NSPCC website for Talking About Difficult Topics -
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/

This guide for Parents and Carers is to help you feel confident when talking to your children about staying safe. It also explains ‘The Underwear Rule’ in detail. We know talking to your child about their body and staying safe can seem difficult, but it doesn’t have to be scary. ‘Talk PANTS’ is a simple way that parents can help keep children safe from abuse.

As part of our PSHE curriculum each teacher will spend some time with their class teaching ‘The Underwear Rule’ and going through what PANTS stands for. In classrooms there will be the child friendly version, which is in your leaflet. In preparation for this we would like you to read the guide and start having age appropriate conversations with your child/children so that they become aware of ‘The Underwear Rule’. If your child says anything that worries you there is advice in the booklet. You can also talk to a teacher at school or you can call the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 for further advice and support.

What can you do to help keep children safe?

- Talk to your child about internet safety and to never give personal details such as names, addresses and school information to anyone on the internet.
- Do not come into the school building at the start of the day. If you need to speak to the office please walk around and use the main entrance.
- At the end of the day please keep your children close to you. They are your responsibility once you have collected them from the class teacher.
- Be observant. If you notice anything that causes you concern, please let a staff member know in confidence.
- Talk to your children about showing compassion and using kind hands and feet. Remind them to make good choices with their behaviour so that all children stay and feel safe at school.
- Let the school know if you have any court orders relating to the safety of your child.
- Let the school know if there is a change in your circumstances such as a house move, a new contact number, a change of name, a change of parental responsibility. Ensure we have two emergency contacts on record.
- You must inform the school of any changes to agreed collection arrangements. Please ensure the school know who will be dropping off or collecting your child each day.
- Feel confident to raise concerns about your child.
- Talk to school if you need help or support.
- Read the school policies about safety issues
- Let the school know if your child has a medical condition

---

**Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023**

The Government released a new version of the Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) statutory guidance for 2023 in England on **1 September 2023**. Please click on the following link to read a copy: [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)

---

**Useful Contact Numbers**

- If it’s an emergency, call 999
- You can contact [Childline](#) by either text, email or phoning their free 24-hour helpline on 0800 1111.
- You can text the [NSPCC](#) helpline anonymously on 88858.
- If you would like to get some help locally, there are two teams in Dorset. If you live in Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole you can call the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01202 123334
- If you live in Dorset you can call the Children’s Advice and Duty Service on 01305 228866. If you need to speak to someone outside normal hours (9.00am to 5.00pm) please contact the Out of Hours Teams on:
  - Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole: 01202 738256
  - Dorset: 01305 228558

---
Scared of your partner or ex?

Talk to us any time, day or night.

0808 2000 247

Freephone 24 hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline
Confidential, non-judgmental support
Or reach us online:
www.nationalDAhelpline.org.uk

Refuge
For women and children. Against domestic violence.