



Spring 2024

Fairmead School—Safeguarding Newsletter



Mrs Felstead —
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs Barratt —
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead

Spring is in the air...

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy half term since Christmas with lots of learning and exciting activities taking place.



You will find, at the end of this newsletter, ways to report an urgent safeguarding concern to the safeguarding team including outside of the school office opening times. Please ensure that these are strictly only used to report a serious safeguarding incident.

With kind regards, Mrs Felstead and Mrs Barratt.



Social media misuse outside of school



In the Autumn term we reported that we had seen an increase of young people experiencing communication issues with each other outside of the school day and that unfortunately these sometimes carried on into the school day and created a barrier to their learning.

Whilst we will continue to address these issues in school with the young people, alongside their RSHE and e-safety lessons and we have also been telephoning parents and asking for your support in putting measures in place at home. The mobile phone app 'WhatsApp' is frequently the most reported mode of communication that is being reported the young people are using and where issues are arising.

"WhatsApp is available on smartphone and through WhatsApp Web. Users must be 16 or older in the UK, which will reduce to 13 Years old or older in April 2024 (for existing users). If a child signs up from 16 February 2024, they must be 13 Years old or older."

WhatsApp's privacy settings allow you to restrict who can see your child's messages and location. There are also ways to block delete or report users on the platform to promote internet safety and risk management.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/whatsapp-safety-a-how-to-guide-for-parents/>





Social stories

Our staff are really keen to help families with social stories for our young people to be used in the home and/or community. Should you require their assistance with this please allow as long as possible for resources to be made - 5 working days at a minimum if possible. And send as many photos as possible to assist in creating the resource to.

office@fairmeadschool.com

LEGO Build and Talk

LEGO® have created Build and Talk to help you chat to your child about digital safety and wellbeing.

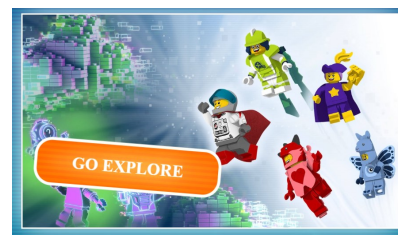
Firstly, you pick an activity to do and then you read a story, which includes questions and conversation prompts, whilst they build with their LEGO®.

This is a great way to start talking about online safety with your child! https://www.lego.com/en-gb/sustainability/children/buildandtalk?locale=en-gb&age-gate=grown_up.

Whilst you're there, view their guides on key topics related to online safety <https://www.lego.com/en-gb/sustainability/children/digital-child-safety?locale=en-gb> or play Doom

the Gloom with your child, which will support them in using the internet safely:

<https://www.lego.com/en-us/kids/campaigns/doom-the-gloom>.



Bullying

Learning to understand and manage conflict is an important part of growing up.

Bullying is not simply a 'falling out' with friends. Research shows that experiencing bullying can have a significant impact on a child's life well into adulthood. To ensure we are able to prevent bullying, act quickly when it takes place and avoid misidentifying bullying, it is vital that we have a shared definition of bullying.

At Fairmead School we define bullying as *'The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online'*.

Bullying behaviour can be:

Physical – pushing, poking, kicking, hitting, biting, pinching etc.

Verbal - name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats, teasing, belittling.

Emotional – isolating others, tormenting, hiding books, threatening gestures, ridicule, humiliation, intimidating, excluding, manipulation and coercion.

Sexual – unwanted physical contact, inappropriate touching, abusive comments, homophobic abuse, exposure to inappropriate films etc.

Online /cyber – posting on social media, sharing photos, sending nasty text messages, social exclusion

Indirect - Can include the exploitation of individuals.

Please encourage your young person to talk to an adult and or report this to any staff at the school immediately. Please see our Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy for more details.

<https://www.fairmeadschool.com/statutory-documents-and-policies/>



Fairmead School's Parent Hub

Fairmead School's Parent Hub is going from strength to strength. Here you will find lots of information and resources, parent get-togethers, meetings, events, webinars and workshops.

The Hub is open every Wednesday, between 8.00am -12.30pm & 1.30pm - 5.00pm. You can drop in and there is no need to book an appointment. The Hub is also open outside of these times by appointment.



Lift available for those with Mobility Issues

Please contact Sharon White, Parent & Family Support Adviser
Call or text: 07901 850869.



Based upstairs in The Key



Domestic Abuse

Are you concerned that someone you know may be experiencing domestic abuse?

- You can visit <https://somersestdomesticabuse.org.uk/>
- Call Somerset Domestic Abuse on 0800 69 49 999—8am to 8pm 7 days a week.
- Webchat at <https://somersestdomesticabuse.org.uk/#> 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.
- Emergencies— If you, or someone you know, is in immediate danger call 999



Links to resources & tools

[Safer internet - Parents & carers resources](#)

[National online safety - guides to apps](#)

[Internet Matters](#)

[thinkuknow - help for parents & carers](#)

[NSPCC - online-safety & online-wellbeing](#)

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

To report a Safeguarding Concern:

Please call the school office on 01935 421295 and ask to speak to a Safeguarding Lead. If it is outside of school hours and cannot wait until the next school day please call Mrs Felstead on 07860 912587 or Mrs Barratt on 07592 504653.

You can also email: safeguarding@fairmeadschool.com

To report an urgent Safeguarding concern where the young person is at risk of harm:

Please call the Police on 999 or

Somerset children: Children's Social Care (Somerset Direct) on 0300 123 2224. For an out of hours service please call the Emergency Duty Team on 0300 123 2327.

Dorset children: Children's Social Care 01305 228866.

