



Spring 2026

# Fairmead School—Safeguarding Newsletter



*Mrs Barratt*  
Designated  
Safeguarding  
Lead



*Mrs Felstead*  
Deputy  
Designated  
Safeguarding  
Lead



*Miss Snashall*  
Safeguarding  
Officer

## Support for Domestic Abuse in Somerset

Domestic abuse can affect anyone, and it's important to know help is available.

Have you heard about Clare's Law?

We would like to raise awareness of Clare's Law (the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme), which allows individuals to ask the police for information if they are concerned about a partner's or ex-partner's past behaviour. This scheme is designed to support safety and help people make informed choices. More information is available through Avon and Somerset Police:

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/request/domestic-violence-disclosure-scheme-clares-law/>

If you would like support or guidance, you are always welcome to contact the school Safeguarding Officer, who can offer advice and signpost to further help.

Visit [somersetdomesticabuse.org.uk](https://www.somersetdomesticabuse.org.uk) for more information. In an emergency, always call 999.



**Somerset**  
Domestic Abuse

## Welcome to our Spring Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move into the Spring term, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all our families and thank you for your continued support.

At Fairmead School, we are committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for every young person, and we are pleased to share some positive updates with you.

Over the past term, our safeguarding officer and therapist ran a weekly positive wellbeing session for six weeks with a small group of students. The sessions were a great success and were thoroughly enjoyed by those who took part. Due to this positive feedback, we plan to run the sessions again in the future.

We strongly value joined-up working and were delighted to welcome our local PCSO and a police officer into school. They delivered a session to a small group of young people focusing on misogyny and online safety. We hope to offer further sessions like this going forward.

These initiatives strengthen our ongoing commitment to safeguarding and wellbeing, and we look forward to continuing to work closely with you to ensure every young person feels safe, supported, and able to thrive.

With kind regards,  
Fairmead's Safeguarding Team.

## What is Mysogyny?

As part of our commitment to keeping young people safe and respected, we continue to address misogyny, which refers to negative or harmful attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls. We understand the importance of helping young people recognise respectful relationships, challenge stereotypes, and understand how online and offline behaviour can impact others. Through open discussion, education, and positive role-modelling, we aim to support all students in developing kindness, empathy, and respect for everyone.



### Finding support during the holidays:

Changes in routine, finances, and support can feel overwhelming in the holidays, and we want you to know that you are not alone and help is available.

While school vouchers have now ended, Citizens Advice offers a holiday fund that families can apply for, and they can also provide advice and guidance around housing, finances, and other concerns. They can also help with food parcels if needed.

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

**The Community Inclusion Activity Team (CIA Team)** has shared their Inclusive Activities Calendar for May Half Term, offering a range of fun and accessible activities for children and young people with disabilities and/or additional needs. Activities include archery, paddleboarding, seasonal forest sessions, a Young People's Bowling Day, and a Family Day at Ark at Egwood. Full details and the calendar can be found via the Local Offer: Activities for families ([somerset.gov.uk](http://somerset.gov.uk)).

### Are you struggling with your mental health and need someone to talk too?

Crisis Safe Space offers out-of-hours, emotional support for anyone who feels like they are really struggling with their mental health. Accessing support out-of-hours can be difficult and often restricted to an emergency GP appointment or a visit to A&E, however, our spaces in Yeovil and Taunton offer a welcoming space for you to visit when you need someone to talk to. You will be met by a supportive member of staff who will be there to listen, advise, talk through options, and offer signposting, whilst helping you find ways of coping and managing your current difficulties, whatever they may be.

Here is our list of services and times:

Taunton (Mind in Somerset): Monday – Sunday: 6PM – 11PM

Yeovil (Mind in Somerset): Monday – Sunday: 6PM – 11PM

Bridgwater (Second Step): Monday – Sunday: 6PM – 11PM

Wells (Second Step): Sunday – Wednesday: 6PM – 11PM

Frome (Second Step) : Thursday – Saturday: 6PM – 11PM

Our services are available in-person, via Zoom or via the telephone dependent on location and staffing availability.

**To arrange an appointment, please call us on 01823 276 892, or use the button below to request a call back from one of our team.**

### The Somerset Parent Carer Forum

This offers information and support groups for parents and carers of children with SEND.

- Ups and Downs charity
- Autism helpline
- Mencap
- Support groups and family events.

[www.somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk/support-for-parents](http://www.somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk/support-for-parents)

**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.**

**To report a safeguarding concern:**

**Please call the school office on 01935 421295 and ask to speak to a Safeguarding Lead.**

**Outside of school hours, if it is a safeguarding emergency that cannot wait until the next school day and the young person is not at immediate risk of harm please call Mrs Barratt on 07592 504653 or Mrs Felstead on 07860 912587. You may wish to call after you have contacted the relevant services.**

## Attendance matters – Every day counts!

At Fairmead, we're proud of our excellent attendance record – currently **93.4%** – and we want to keep it that way! Good attendance and punctuality help your young person thrive, make friends, and enjoy school life to the fullest.



### Why attendance is so important

#### Young people who attend school regularly:

- Keep up with their learning
- Build strong friendships
- Feel happier and more confident

#### Young people who miss school often:

- Fall behind in their learning,
- Struggle socially,
- Develop habits that can affect future education and work

### Why being on time matters

Arriving late can really add up:

- Just **15 minutes late every day = 2 weeks of lost learning a year**
- Late arrivals disrupt routines and cause missed key messages
- It can be embarrassing for your young person and unsettling for the class

**Getting here on time sets your young person up for success!**

#### Did you know?

- Schools must report attendance to the Local Authority.
- Parents have a legal duty to ensure their young person attends school and on time.
- Holidays in term time count as unauthorised absences.
- Arriving after **9:15am** means an unauthorised absence for the whole morning.

#### How you can help

- **Send them in even if they're a little under the weather** – they often perk up once they're busy. If we're worried, we'll call you.

Check NHS advice: <https://www.nhs.uk>

#### We're here to help

If you're struggling with attendance or punctuality, please talk to us.

#### Top Tips for Great Attendance:

- Contact school on each day of absence.
- Keep your contact details up to date.
- Prepare everything the night before.
- Talk positively about school.
- Arrange appointments outside school hours where possible.
- Take an interest in schoolwork.
- Avoid term-time holidays – this is essential!
- Young people can attend school while taking certain medication – speak to us if unsure.
- Set alarms for you and your young person – make it a fun race to beat the clock!

