

Ridgmont Lower School ~ Safeguarding Newsletter



Ridgmont Lower School
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May half term is just around the corner!

Safeguarding is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Attendance Update

Attendance is very good and remains above national average. The most up-to-date national figure available is for w/e 1st May 2026. The national figure stood at 95.47% and the school's figure was 99.21%. A fantastic achievement!

A Reminder or two!

School Keep Clear Signs

Please help keep our children safe by not parking on the zig-zags and do not use the car park as a thoroughfare. Please ensure you use the designated paths at all times.

Who to contact if you have a concern about a child.

Report any concerns if you suspect a child is being harmed or at risk of being harmed. Please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Deputy.

If a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999 immediately.

You can also contact the Integrated Front Door - Children's Services

☎ 0300 300 8585 (Mon-Thurs 0845-1720hrs & Fri 0845-1620hrs)

0300 300 8123 (Out of Hours)

✉ IFD@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Summer 1 ~ 2026

What's included?

- EA Sports FC
- Young people and Tik-Tok
- Managing screentime - (device boundaries) part one

Ridgmont's Safeguarding Team

The Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DSL)

is

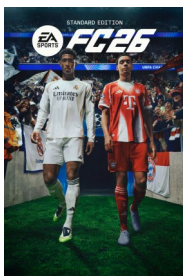
Allison Jakes
Headteacher

The Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding Lead

(DDSL)

is

Jane Stringall
Senior Teacher



EA Sports FC is one of the most played games among children and young people and it is set to have its PEGI rating changed. PEGI stands for Pan-European Game Information and is the European system that classifies video games and apps, based on age suitability and content.

Its rating will change 3+ to 16+ from June 2026.

This is because of new rules recognising that that paid random card packs in Ultimate Team are a form of gambling mechanic. This is happening alongside the revised Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) guidance coming into force in September 2026, which for the first time explicitly requires schools to address gaming and gambling harm as safeguarding issues.

The Central Bedfordshire Education Safeguarding team are running an information session for parents and carers on 21st May, from 1800 - 1930hrs. Please contact me for further details if you are interested.

Young People and TikTok

I have included this information for those of you with older children. This short video will show you how to set up parental supervision for your teen in a few easy steps.

[How to set up TikTok Family Pairing | Parent Zone](#)

As the half term approaches, downtime for your child is important. But how they spend that downtime CAN be a challenge especially if you want to reduce how much of that downtime is screentime. It is important that boundaries are established and adhered to.

Even at a young age, children are:

- ◇ **Curious and impressionable** often unable to access what is appropriate
- ◇ At risk of viewing **violent, sexual or disturbing content** accidentally or through peer
- ◇ Prone to **sleep disruption, anxiety and mood swings** from too much screen time

That's why clear and consistent boundaries are essential for both safety and healthy development.

In the Summer 2 edition, I will share *how* to have a conversation with your child around *why* boundaries are in place.