

Ridgmont Lower School ~ Safeguarding Newsletter



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Autumn is well under way!

I hope you found the Summer edition of our Safeguarding newsletter useful.

The newsletter will be produced each half term and is aimed at supporting parents/carers and children to keep themselves safe especially around online content.

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

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

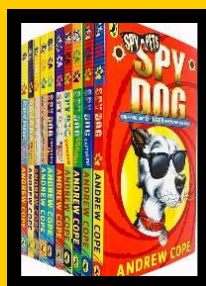
You may have seen in the press today or heard from your county library service that the children's publisher Puffin has issued an alert about books by Andy Cope including those in the Spy Dogs, Spy Cats, and Spy Pups series.

The books include a link to additional content, but the link is no longer owned by Mr Cope. The new owner publishes pornographic content. This means that children visiting the link are seeing highly inappropriate webpages.

As a result, libraries, bookshops, retailers and schools have removed the books from their shelves until such time as there is a resolution.

The story of course is fine to read, it is only the additional online content that is affected.

There is no suggestion that either Mr Cope or Puffin are responsible for the third-party site.



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

Autumn 1 ~ 2025

What's included?

- *How to keep your child safe when Trick or Treating*
- *What parents need to know about the Online Safety Act*
- *What is the role of the Safeguarding Governor?*
- *What is the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead?*
- *Attendance and why it matters*

Ridgmont's Safeguarding Team

The Designated
Safeguarding Lead

(DSL)

is

Allison Jakes
Headteacher

The Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding Lead

(DDSL)

is

Jane Stringall
Senior Teacher

What is the role of the Safeguarding Governor?

Our safeguarding Governor is **Mrs Christine Sweetnam**.

The Safeguarding Governor's responsibilities include:

- Ensuring the school is following safer recruitment procedures when recruiting any new staff members
- Reviewing all activity and policy relating to the physical and emotional well-being of all children
- Seeking improvement to ensure the school follows best practice in creating a productive and safe environment for all

What is the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead?

Each school must have an appropriate senior member of staff to take lead responsibility for child protection.

Key aspects of the 'Designated Safeguarding Lead's role include:

- Ensuring that all staff are aware of the processes for raising safeguarding concerns
- Ensuring all staff understand the signs of child abuse and neglect
- Referring any significant concerns to Social Care
- Monitoring children who are the subject of Child Protection and CiN (Child in Need) Plans
- Maintaining accurate and secure child protection records
- Raising awareness of the school's safeguarding policies and procedures, and ensuring these are implemented and reviewed regularly

You will see on page three why 'attendance matters' and we know how it can sometimes be a challenge to actually get out of the house on time!

You may find this 'parenting hack' useful.

[From getting kids to eat veg to curbing screen time: the parenting hacks that actually work | Parents and parenting | The Guardian](#)

Included in this article are other tips that you may find helpful including bath time, teeth cleaning and limiting screen time.

Attendance Matters!!

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.

There is much evidence to show that 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 middle and upper 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

Things to note:

- Understanding that holiday in term time will usually be unauthorised except in extreme circumstances, still means the absence is to be REQUESTED; please do not assume it is your right!
- Even if your child is not of compulsory school age, absence is still to be REQUESTED. If you have agreed for your child to attend school on given days, then their attendance is expected!

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!

Ridgmont Lower School's Attendance vs National Figure for w/e 26.09.2025*

100% vs 93.98%

*most up to date data available

Age restrictions for Social Media Platforms

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

Why are there age restrictions on social media platforms?
Many social media platforms have an age restriction of 13 years or over. This is because you have to be at least 13 years old to give consent for your personal data to be collected and processed.

What is the minimum age for UK account holders on these social media platforms?

13	16
Facebook	Vimeo
Instagram	Tumblr
Snapchat	
TikTok	
X (formerly Twitter)	
Pinterest	
Twitch	
Reddit	
Messenger	
Discord	
Skype	
YouTube	
WhatsApp	

The above age restrictions are based on the age required by the individual platform. This may differ from the age ratings suggested on app stores such as Google Play or App Store.

Social Media Disclaimer: This resource/information is not intended to encourage social media use and we cannot accept any responsibility for pupils that sign up to social media sites after using this resource/information. This resource refers to UK age ratings and other countries may differ. Please note that age restrictions.

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Did you know..?

On WhatsApp it is possible to hide chats.

Yes - YouTube is restricted to age 13; make sure you are only allowing your child to access YouTube Kids and still know what it is they're accessing.