



28th October 2026

Keeping Children Safe at Ashbourne Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Keeping our children safe, happy and supported is always our highest priority at Ashbourne Primary School. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we believe that working closely with parents and carers is one of the most important ways we can keep our children safe.

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding, we wanted to share some important information about how we keep children safe in school, the support available to families and what to do if you ever have a concern.

We hope you find the information below helpful.

Safeguarding Information for Parents and Carers 2026–2027

How Do We Keep Children Safe?

We take our responsibility to safeguard children very seriously. At Ashbourne Primary School, we:

- Recruit safely – Staff and volunteers undergo appropriate safeguarding checks for their roles.
- Train our staff – Staff receive regular safeguarding training and know how to recognise and report concerns.
- Listen to children – Children know which trusted adults they can talk to.
- Teach children how to stay safe – Through our curriculum, assemblies and everyday interactions, children learn about relationships, respect, boundaries and online safety.
- Promote positive behaviour – Our PRAISE values help children make positive choices.
- Support wellbeing – We work with families when additional help is needed.
- Work with other professionals – When needed, we work with children's services, health professionals and other agencies.

Every Child Has the Right to Feel Safe

We want all children to know that their feelings matter and that they will be listened to. We teach children:

- How to recognise when something does not feel right.
- The importance of kindness, respect and healthy friendships.
- How to stay safe online and in the wider community.
- That their bodies belong to them and they have a right to personal boundaries.
- How to recognise bullying and ask for help.
- That they can always speak to a trusted adult if something is worrying them.

What Is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding means protecting children from harm, supporting their health and wellbeing, and helping them grow up in safe and caring environments. There are four main categories of abuse:

- **Physical abuse:** When a child is deliberately physically hurt or harmed.
- **Emotional abuse:** When a child experiences ongoing emotional harm, such as being regularly frightened, threatened, humiliated or made to feel worthless.

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- **Sexual abuse:** When a child is forced, persuaded or manipulated into sexual activities, including situations involving inappropriate images or online contact.
- **Neglect:** When a child's basic physical or emotional needs are persistently not met, which may affect their health or development.

Other safeguarding concerns can include bullying, exploitation, domestic abuse and online harm. Our staff are trained to recognise possible signs of harm and respond appropriately.

What Happens If We Have a Safeguarding Concern?

Our priority will always be the safety and wellbeing of the child. If we are worried, we will listen carefully, record our concerns and take appropriate action. Wherever possible, we will work openly and closely with parents and carers.

There may be occasions when we need to seek advice from or share information with children's services or the police. Sometimes we may not be able to discuss a concern with parents immediately, particularly if doing so could place a child at further risk or affect an investigation.

We understand that this can sometimes be worrying for families, but please be reassured that our priority will always be the safety and wellbeing of the child.

Working Together to Keep Children Safe

Parents and carers know their children best, and we really value the positive relationships we have with our families. Please help us by:

- Talking to us if you have worries about your child's safety, happiness or wellbeing.
- Keeping us informed about changes at home that may affect your child.
- Making sure we have up-to-date contact details and at least two additional emergency contacts.
- Letting us know about medical conditions, allergies or additional needs.
- Sharing relevant court orders or changes to parental responsibility.
- Keeping us informed about who is authorised to collect your child.
- Letting us know if your child is absent and explaining the reason.
- Supporting your child to use technology and the internet safely.
- Talking positively about kindness, respect and keeping safe.

Please remember, we're here to help. If something is worrying you or your family, we would always encourage you to speak to us.

Supporting Children and Families

We know family life can sometimes be challenging. Our Child and Family Wellbeing Leaders, Mrs Simpson and Mrs Blake, work closely with children and families to offer help, advice and reassurance. This might include:

- Children's emotional wellbeing and friendships.
- Attendance and daily routines.
- Changes or difficulties at home.
- Accessing additional support from other services.

We believe that providing help early can make a real difference. You don't need to wait until a problem becomes serious before asking for support.

Attendance, Behaviour and Bullying

Attendance: Regular attendance supports learning, wellbeing and belonging. We monitor attendance and contact families when we notice concerns or patterns of absence. If your child is finding it difficult to attend, please talk to us so we can explore how to help.

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Behaviour: Our PRAISE aims and behaviour policy help us create a safe, respectful and positive environment. We encourage children to make good choices, show kindness and take responsibility for their actions.

Bullying: Bullying is never acceptable. We take all concerns seriously and work with children and families to resolve problems and prevent them happening again. Please tell us if your child is worried about bullying.

Keeping Children Safe Online

Technology offers fantastic opportunities, but children need support to use it safely. At school, we teach online safety in an age-appropriate way. At home, you can help by:

- Checking games, apps and websites are suitable for your child's age.
- Knowing who your child communicates with online.
- Using parental controls and privacy settings where appropriate.
- Talking regularly about what your child enjoys doing online.
- Reminding your child not to share personal information or images with strangers.
- Encouraging your child to tell a trusted adult if something online makes them uncomfortable or worried.

If you have concerns about your child's online safety, please speak to us.

Worried About a Child?

If you are worried about the safety or wellbeing of any child, please tell us. You do not need to be certain that something is wrong before sharing a concern. Our safeguarding team is here to listen, offer advice and take appropriate action.

- Parents can contact the school office and ask to speak to a member of the safeguarding team.
- Concerns about staff should be reported to the Headteacher.
- Concerns about the Headteacher should be reported to the Chair of Governors.
- If a child is in immediate danger, call 999.

Our Safeguarding Team

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** Miss Davis – Headteacher
- **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:** Mrs Howell – Deputy Headteacher/Co-Headteacher; Mrs Simpson and Mrs Blake – Child and Family Wellbeing Leaders
- **Chair of Governors:** Mr Ken Torr

By working together, sharing concerns and supporting one another, we can make sure every child feels safe, happy and ready to learn.

We are incredibly proud of the caring and supportive school community we have at Ashbourne Primary, and we know that strong relationships between home and school play a huge part in keeping our children safe.

Please remember that we are always here to listen, help and offer support. If you ever have a worry or concern, however small, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for working with us to keep our children safe, happy and thriving.

Miss Davis
Headteacher

Mrs Howell
Deputy/Co – Headteacher

Mrs Blake
Child and Family Wellbeing Leader

Mrs Simpson
Child and Family Wellbeing Leader

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