



SAFEGUARDING & WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Autumn Safeguarding Newsletter. Safeguarding and child protection can be scary words, but in fact they are all about doing preventative work with our children and young people to keep them safe while supporting families through difficult situations.

With just a few weeks to go before Christmas this is both an exciting and stressful time for families. Look after each other.

Don't forget to keep up that great attendance right to the end of term. Your children won't want to miss out on any learning, rewards and Christmas activities.



AI and Safer Internet Day

AI technology is increasingly part of all our lives, so this year for **Safer Internet Day** on 10th February 2026 the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) are starting a conversation about how to use it safely and responsibly.

From summaries on search engines, to voice assistants and photo editing tools, AI powered features are being added to many of the apps and devices we use day-to-day. Look out for information and warnings notifying you where AI technology is in use or where content has been created using AI. Help your child to recognise these too.

Remember, AI can make some tasks simpler but may also collect data about you and your family, or share unreliable information, so consider how to use it safely and responsibly.

The UK Safer Internet Centre is a one stop shop for tips, advice and resources for parents and children to help keep safe online.

[For Parents](#)

[For 11- to 19-
year-olds](#)

[For 3- to 11-
year-olds](#)



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Support through Family Hubs

Stour Vale Schools span three local authorities. One thing that Dudley, Sandwell and Worcestershire have in common is a Family Hub network. Each network is a group of centers and an online offer for advice and support for local families with children aged 0-19.

Click on the links in each logo to find the services in your area. Alternatively talk to your school about Early Help.



SMART PHONES – Can we make a difference?

If there was just one thing that Safeguarding Leads in our Secondary Schools could change to **make children safer and happier**, it would be to **limit their smart phone use at home**.

2004



In two decades we've gone from a time when Nokia's ruled, to 89% of 12-year-olds permanently connected to 4/5g internet.

Parents wish things were different. 94% of primary parents think smartphones are harmful. Teens with problematic phone use are **three times as likely to have depression**.

2024



The solution is to work together. Over 150,000 parents have signed the [Smartphone Free Childhood Pact](#). That means buying a simple phone to stay in contact when they go to secondary school and delaying the time their children have a smart phone until at least 14.

If this could become the new normal in our communities, we could protect our children from a product we know to be harmful while avoiding them feeling like they are missing out. **Being a parent is a really tough job.** Wherever you sit on this issue we know we're all trying to do the best we can for our children.



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Bullying – The Parents' perspective

Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It doesn't happen often at our school, but when it does we take it seriously.

Lots of our children have arguments and friendship fall outs – **This is not Bullying**. Children sometimes need our guidance to resolve conflict, make amends, and move on. **Parents and teachers can work together** to make this happen

If your child is being bullied, **let them talk** to you about it. **Listen and reassure** them and **try not to over-react**. Seeing you upset will upset and worry your child more. Make sure that your child **tells a teacher** at school so they can investigate. We can only help when we know what the problem is. **Don't take matters into your own hands**, this makes things worse.

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children and young people who look up to us: they observe and learn from our actions every day.

Let's challenge ourselves to set the best example possible for our children this Anti-Bullying Week and beyond.



In November, many trust schools ran activities and assemblies to recently recognised Anti-Bullying Week.

This year's theme is "Power for Good". Staff and children have worn odd socks to show we're ALL unique and different, and let's be kind to each other and respect each other's individuality.

A really helpful [parents guide](#) is available





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Getting Support

School safeguarding information is available on our [website](#)

Click [here](#) for the Safeguarding guide for parents

Police – 999 in an emergency / 101 for other calls

Mental Health support – for young people experiencing a mental health crisis. Text YM to 85258

Emergency Duty Team – Children’s social care

0121 569 3100 (this number is available outside normal office hours)

NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000 (free service, lines open 24 hours a day)

Your GP (by phone)

Websites:

- Kooth.com
- Youngminds.org.uk
- Childline.org.uk
- Samaritans.org
- Ceop.police.uk/safety-centre
- fis.sandwell.gov.uk/kb5/sandwell/directory/home.page
- sandwellfamilylife.info

Great attendance and keeping children safe.

We all know that good attendance is linked to doing well at school and keeping children safe. At our school we expect children to attend every day that they possibly can.

Our school is successful because our parents generally do a **great job in communicating** with us on the odd day when their child cannot attend.

Remember to:

- Call the school to report your child’s absence before 9am on the day of the absence and each subsequent day of absence, and advise when they are expected to return
- Provide the school with more than 1 emergency contact number for your child
- Ensure that, where possible, appointments for your child are made outside of the school day.

