THE AVENUE INFANT SCHOOL

Safeguarding Newsletter—Summer 2026

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding means:

- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.
- Child protection is one part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes child protection procedures that detail how to respond to concerns about a child. Safeguarding children and child protection applies to **all** children up to the age of 18.

'Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, every day!'

Keeping your child safe in school means:

- the health and safety of all children
- making sure that the adults who work & visit here have undergone the necessary safety and security checks
- protecting children from deliberate harm
- being pro-active against bullying and protecting our pupils from harassment and discrimination
- a positive approach to behaviour management—following our policy
- meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions & providing first aid
- children enjoying safe educational visits
- providing a curriculum that teaches children how to help keep themselves safe including online
- ensuring the school site is secure and safe
- being a 'listening school' to worries and concerns (We have posters around school, worry boxes & emotion boards in each class)

If you are worried about a child and would like to report a concern or ask for advice, call the Northamptonshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on **0300 126 7000**. alternatively, visit **nctrust.co.uk/report-a-concern-or-request-support/**

Sun Safety

Look after Each Other

People are more vulnerable when temperatures are soaring. Check on friends, family and neighbours to ensure their safety. Especially those with health issues.

Plan your Day

Children love to play outside during the Summer Holiday. Remember, the hottest time of the day is between 11 o'clock and 3 o'clock. Try planning activities earlier in the morning or later in the evening to stay cooler.

Sun Cream

Sun cream is a must! Sunburn can be very serious and can damage many layers of your skin. You must top up your sun cream regularly to ensure you are protected. There are many factors available to buy. You can buy sprays, creams, lotions and oils. Children should never use oil as it assists the skin to burn. (Think of basting a chicken when you roast it!) Children should always use Factor 50.

Don't Debate, Rehydrate!

We know that we need to drink water during hot days to prevent dehydration but that is not the only reason. Your body loses more water through sweating, breathing, and urination. Sweating is the body's natural cooling mechanism, but it requires sufficient water to function effectively. Without water, your body cannot cool itself properly, increasing the risk of heat-related illnesses such as heat exhaustion or heatstroke.

Electric Scooters

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1988. Which means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters including the need to have a licence, insurance and tax.

It's not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it is **illegal to use them on the road** or in public spaces. If you're using a private e-scooter you risk the vehicle being seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988 for no insurance.

Electric scooters are **only intended for a single rider**. While the thought of riding with a parent, sibling or friend may be fun, this is not safe. We urge all of our families to follow this guidance and not allow their child to accompany them on an e-scooter.

The internet can offer huge opportunities for our children. From a young age, children have the chance to learn, research, play games, have fun and connect with family who may not live nearby. It is important to help them to use the online world in a way that is safe and positive for their mental health. Have regular conversations about the internet and social media from a young age. This will make it easier to have those conversations when they are older. It should be as ordinary as talking about the weather, the dog, or something you've watched on TV.

- **Be aware of what they do online** and specifically why they enjoy it. Build up your awareness of the risks and rewards these activities can offer.
- **Model the behaviour that you'd like to see** Children tend to do what you do, not necessarily what you say.
- **Actively engage with them on some of the activities they do online**; whether it's playing a game together, watching their favourite vlogger or asking them about their recent post.
- **Take time to unplug from tech as a family** Encourage them to have a balanced view of using tech.
- **Find apps, sites, and games together** that help give kids a way to explore their passions, enhance their skills and discover their identity in a safe way.
- **Establish a family agreement together** to manage expectations of how screens and online platforms should be used and why.
- For younger children, find ways to **combine** touchscreen **use with creative or active play**

Children's screen time does not have to be passive, **look for apps that encourage and complement physical activity.**

Review and manage the amount of time they spend on YouTube and YouTube Kids, Roblox, Minecraft, etc. Always check the chat features so you know who your children are talking to.

Remember, children look to their parents as role models. If you are always on social media, checking your phone at mealtimes, playing violent games or games that are not age appropriate in front of your children, then it is likely your child will do the same!

Water Safety

There are many places across Northamptonshire where you can play and swim in the water. It can be great fun as long as you keep safe. Please see attached poster for tips.

SWIM SAFE®

WITH THE ASA AND THE RNLI

REMEMBER these five key points:

1. Always swim in a safe place
2. Know the people who can help
3. Make sure an adult is supervising at all times
4. Cold water makes it more difficult to swim, breathe and stay alert
5. Know how to call for help

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Summer Safety Series

Beach safety flags

Parent's Digest

Red & Yellow

Safest place to swim and body board, with lifeguard on duty

Just red

Danger – DO NOT GO INTO THE WATER

Black & White

Area for surfing, kayaking and paddleboarding – DO NOT SWIM HERE

Orange Windsock

Strong winds – DO NOT USE INFLATABLES