

Article 1: All children under 18 have rights
Article 19: I have a right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated
Article 24: I have a right to ... a safe environment...
(UN Convention on the Rights of a Child)

Safeguarding News –Autumn term 1 2026

If you are worried about a child or need any advice, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our Safeguarding Team. This can be via the office or by email
dsl@uppernidderdalefed.school



Miss Thornber



Mrs Wilkinson



Mr Wiseman



Mrs Bourne



Mrs Lumley



Mrs Fearnley



Ms Marston

Our Safeguarding Governors are

Mrs. Amanda Simmons

Mrs. Marianne Tharby

Keeping Our Children Safe: Welcome Back

Welcome back to a new school year at the Upper Nidderdale Primary Federation! As always, safeguarding your children is our absolute priority.

Throughout this year, our newsletters will focus on key areas relevant to our rural community: **online safety, farm safety, and awareness of county lines exploitation.**

What is Contextual Safeguarding?

Contextual safeguarding recognises that children can experience harm in different environments and situations outside the home. This may include the online world, within the wider community, and in places where children spend their time.

As a school, we consider the different contexts in which children may encounter risk and work with families and other agencies to help keep children safe.

This Half Term's Focus: Online Safety Basics

Children's online lives are an important part of growing up. Even young children can encounter risks through games, apps, websites, messaging services and social media.

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What parents need to know

Some changes in a child's behaviour or circumstances can be indicators that they may need additional support. These can include:

- significant or unexplained changes in behaviour or mood
- becoming unusually secretive about devices or online activity
- changes in friendships or relationships
- persistent or unexplained absence from school
- receiving messages or requests from people they do not know
- being pressured to send photographs or personal information
- exposure to harmful, frightening or inappropriate content
- concerns relating to bullying, exploitation, drugs, alcohol or serious violence

Children may also be targeted or groomed online and may not always recognise that what is happening is unsafe.

It is important to remember that **children do not always tell adults when something has gone wrong online**. They may feel embarrassed, worried that they will be blamed, or frightened that their device will be taken away.

AI, images and online pressure

Artificial intelligence is creating new online safeguarding challenges. Children may encounter manipulated or AI-generated images and videos, including fake or altered intimate images ("deepfakes").

Please talk to your child about:

- never sending an image of themselves that they are uncomfortable sharing
- never forwarding someone else's intimate image
- telling a trusted adult if someone asks them for an inappropriate image
- not responding to threats or pressure online
- reporting concerning content or behaviour rather than dealing with it alone

If something goes wrong, **your child will not be in trouble for telling you or another trusted adult**. The most important thing is to seek help.

What you can do at home

- Set up appropriate parental controls on all devices.
- Check the age ratings and privacy settings of games and apps.
- Keep devices in communal areas where appropriate, particularly for younger children.
- Talk regularly with your child about what they do online and who they communicate with.
- Agree sensible screen-time boundaries together.
- Encourage children to come to you if something online makes them feel uncomfortable, worried or unsafe.
- Regularly check that apps and games are appropriate for your child's age.
- Remind children that people online may not always be who they say they are.

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Parental controls are helpful, but **conversation and an open, trusting relationship are just as important.**

What we do in school

Online safety is part of our wider safeguarding work. We teach children how to recognise risk, make safe choices and seek help when they need it.

The school also has appropriate **filtering and monitoring arrangements** to help protect children when using school technology. These systems are reviewed as part of our safeguarding arrangements; however, no filtering system can remove every online risk, which is why education, supervision and communication remain essential.

If your child tells you about something that has happened online, please listen calmly, reassure them and let us know if you think they may need support.

Useful Resources

- **Internet Matters** – age-specific advice, checklists and guidance for parents.
- **Childnet** – practical resources to help families talk about children's online lives.
- **CEOP Safety Centre** – advice and a reporting route for concerns about online sexual abuse or grooming.
- **NSPCC** – advice for parents about keeping children safe online.

Remember

If you have a safeguarding concern about your child, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or a member of the safeguarding team without delay.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If a child is in immediate danger, call **999**.

Most importantly, please encourage your child to **tell a trusted adult if something doesn't feel right** – online or offline. We would always rather a child came to us with a concern than tried to deal with it alone.

If you need support please let us know by emailing
familysupportworker@uppernidderdalefed.school

Safeguarding is a priority here!