

# Safeguarding Newsletter

Issue 3: September 2025



## Our Safeguarding Team

Mrs Woodhouse

Mr Pardoe

Mr Waterfield

Mr Hinton

Mrs Bloomer

Miss Hall

Miss Crannage

Miss Pickin

The Safeguarding lead for Dudley Academies Trust is Mr Townsend.

A copy of the school's safeguarding policy can be found on our website.

Welcome back and welcome to all of our new families! We hope you all had a lovely summer holidays.

As we start the year we would like to remind you all that at Kates Hill Primary School, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and our top priority. Everyone who comes in to contact with the children and families who make up our school community has a role to play.

Everything that we do has the children at its centre. Their wellbeing, their safety, their achievement, their happiness underpins every decision we make. Often when safeguarding is mentioned, the immediate thought is about child protection – when a child is suffering harm, or is in danger of suffering harm. However, safeguarding is much more complex than this and encompasses a very wide range of areas. At Kates Hill we ensure that all of our staff are well trained in all aspects of safeguarding and this training is regularly updated and frequently revisited throughout the year. We also ensure that our curriculum provides the children with age-appropriate opportunities to learn how to keep themselves healthy and safe.

## Just a few points to remember:

- ◆ If your child has an accident at home, please let your child's class teacher know in the mornings at drop off.
- ◆ If your child has a broken bone or a fracture, they will need a risk assessment before returning to school. Please ask to speak to Mr Bell.
- ◆ If someone other than yourselves is collecting your child from school, school must be informed before 2.15pm. This is also applicable to after school clubs; we will also not let children walk home unaccompanied without prior notice.

Starting a new school year can be daunting for children, here are some ways to support your child:

- ◆ Acknowledge their feelings and communicate with them about these.
- ◆ Engage with the school if you notice your child is having difficulties.
- ◆ Set daily routines.
- ◆ Prioritise sleep.
- ◆ Talk about the new school year and what they will be learning.
- ◆ Set small, realistic daily goals.
- ◆ Create fun, calming activities when they feel overwhelmed.
- ◆ Speak to your child's class teacher if you have any concerns.

If you are ever concerned about the safety or wellbeing of a child that you know, do not hesitate to contact Dudley Children's Front Door on 0300 555 0050 for further advice.



## Attendance

We are sure that like us, you as parents and carers realise the importance of attendance and punctuality. At Kates Hill, we continue to work hard to try to raise attendance levels and to reduce instances of lateness. 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.

### 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 secondary 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.

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 .



How can you help your child attend school regularly?

- ◆ Talk to your child about school. Take a positive interest in your child's work, including homework.
- ◆ Make sure your child understands why school is important.
- ◆ Get everything ready for school the night before.
- ◆ Arrange appointments before or after school or during the school holidays.
- ◆ Take holidays during school holidays and not during term time.
- ◆ Set your alarm and your child's alarm clock- see who can beat the clock!
- ◆ Only keep your child at home for genuine illness (you will know!)
- ◆ If your child is slightly under the weather, still send them into school- children often start feeling better as the day goes on and they get busy, and if the school is worried, we will call.

Please also ensure that you:

- ◆ Keep in touch with school staff – we may be able to help you with advice, rewards for your child or other incentives for coming in.
- ◆ Contact school on the first day of absence if your child is unable to attend for whatever reason and keep in contact on subsequent days.
- ◆ Make sure school has up-to-date contact details.
- ◆ Attend meetings about your child's attendance if you are invited to do so. At these meetings we can agree an action plan so that school, parents and children can work together to improve things.
- ◆ If your child is absent for an appointment, please show the office the appointment card or letter.