REDWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the second year of our Parent Safeguarding Newsletter. We hope you continue to find it informative, practical and useful in supporting your child's safety and wellbeing.

Throughout the year, we will continue to share guidance on current safeguarding topics, emerging risks and practical advice to help parents and carers navigate the ever-changing world our children are growing up in. By working together, we can help ensure that all children remain safe, happy and well supported both in school and at home.

Aims:

This safeguarding newsletter is aimed to enhance parental vigilance concerning child safety. It seeks to provide essential information on recognising signs of potential harm, particularly amidst the rising concerns of online abuse. Our goal is to empower parents and carers with knowledge and strategies for safeguarding children effectively, and knowing where to find help and support should it ever be needed.

Our Safeguarding Team



Mrs Shepherd
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Kinder
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Ms Nicholson
Deputy Safeguarding Lead

If you have an urgent concern out of school hours, you can contact the safeguarding team by emailing safeguarding@redwood.derby.sch.uk

SAFEGUARDING TOPICS COVERED IN SCHOOL THIS MONTH:

- Lockdown and Fire procedures
- PANTS talk
- Racism
- Mental Health and Well-being

Our objective is to explore a diverse range of Safeguarding topics each month through various channels, including: whole school and class assemblies; PSHE and RSE curriculum; computing lessons in conjunction with our Digital Leaders; School Council and through consistent signage and posters displayed around the school.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

World Mental Health Day – 10 October

World Mental Health Day takes place every year on 10 October and provides an opportunity around the world to raise awareness of mental health, encourage open conversations and remind us of the importance of looking after our wellbeing. The day aims to reduce stigma, increase understanding and encourage people to seek support when they need it. The theme for 2026 is “Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change”, highlighting the importance of listening to and valuing the experiences of people who have experienced mental health difficulties. In school, this gives us a valuable opportunity to help children understand that everyone has mental health, that talking about our feelings is important, and that listening, kindness and support can make a positive difference. Young Minds is a charity that supports World Mental Health Day and they offer support for children, parents and carers including a helpline: https://www.youngminds.org.uk/

OUR LOCKDOWN PROCEDURES

Schools implement lockdown procedures to protect students and staff by sheltering them inside the building during external threats, such as a violent intruder, a nearby incident causing harm, or a malicious threat to the school.

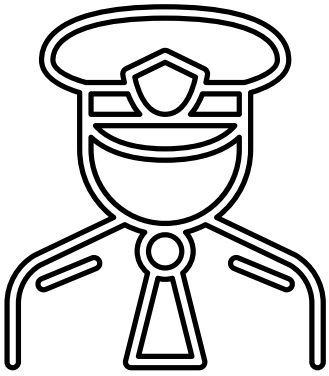
These incidents are extremely rare, but it is important that we incorporate them into our regular practice, just like a practice fire drill. This way, if an incident ever does arise, we can act quickly, ensuring the safest outcome. These procedures aim to keep disruption to a minimum so learning or activities can carry on with the minimum of disruption; keeping everyone as calm as possible. This is particularly important to try to reduce any anxiety that may be caused by the activation of the procedure.

There are two types of lockdown procedures – partial lockdown and full lockdown. The following basic principles apply to both situations:

- The Head Teacher (or Deputy Head in an instance of absence) will be the point of communication with the emergency services.
- Children and staff will enter the nearest classroom if they are outside or transitioning around the school.
- Once those outside are in the building, all doors and necessary windows are to be locked.
- Depending on the circumstances, internal doors may also need to be locked.
- Blinds and curtains are to be drawn and windows on internal doors covered.
- Everyone must sit in silence; there is no need to hide under tables.
- Once in lockdown mode, staff should notify the Lockdown Manager (Head Teacher or Deputy in an instance of absence) of any pupils not accounted for.
- Staff at all times should reassure pupils and encourage them to remain calm.
- ·As necessary, parents should be notified as soon as practicable by the sites established system for communications with parents. Parents should be informed that pupils will not be released to them during the lockdown and that they should not under any circumstances attend site until they are informed the lockdown is over.
- Staff will be alerted by the Head Teacher when the threat has been dealt with (this may be after advice from the emergency services where they are involved); this may be communicated in person or via phone.

If you require anymore information about ‘full’ or ‘partial’ lockdowns, then please request a copy of our Lockdown Procedures Policy.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS



Operation Encompass is a partnership between the police and schools that helps us to support children who may have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse at home.
If the police attend a domestic abuse incident where a child from our school has been present, involved or lives within the household, the school may be informed before the start of the next school day. This information is shared securely with specially trained members of staff and is treated sensitively and confidentially.
Knowing that something may have happened at home allows us to quietly put the right support in place. This might simply mean being aware that a child could be tired, upset, worried or finding it harder to concentrate that day. Children are not expected to talk about what has happened unless they choose to.
Operation Encompass is not about judging families. Its purpose is to make sure that children affected by domestic abuse are met with understanding, reassurance and appropriate support when they come into school.
If you would like to know more about Operation Encompass or the support available to families, please speak to a member of our Safeguarding Team.



CONCERNED ABOUT A CHILD'S WELFARE?

Do you know what to do if you are ever concerned about the welfare of a child who is not your own? This could be a neighbour, someone in the community, a friend, or even a relative. Speaking out is not 'telling tales' when a child's well-being may be at risk. You can even make referrals anonymously.

You do not need to know everything about the child and what is happening; you may just be worried, or feel that everything is not right.

If you believe that a child is at immediate risk and in need of protection then you should call the police on 999 immediately.
If you know which school the child attends, you can speak to Designated Safeguarding Lead or Head Teacher of the school.
Alternatively, Derby City Children's social care and the First Contact team will help you to talk about the concerns you may have for a child and decide what actions may be required to make a child safe.
You can contact them Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm. Telephone: 01332 641172 or fax 01332 643299.