



Cheddar
First School
Where Every Child Is at the Heart

Safeguarding

Newsletter Term 1

Welcome back! We hope you have enjoyed the summer and are excited to be embarking on a new school year at Cheddar First School.



This year we plan to have a different safeguarding theme each term.

This term, our focus is **'What is safeguarding?'**. During assemblies and in classrooms, we will be focusing on what safeguarding is, what it means, what kind of things children and our staff look out for and most importantly, who children can tell if they have a concern or are worried about something. Our safeguarding newsletters will give you an overview of what we discuss in school about safeguarding. It also has advice as well as links to resources that you may find useful and can use at home if you wish.

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the action that school staff take to promote the **welfare of our children in school and to protect them from harm**. Safeguarding means that:

- Children are protected from maltreatment
- Children's health and/or development is protected
- Children grow up in safe and effective care
- Swift action is taken to ensure that the best outcomes for all children are achieved

Potentially, every child can be hurt, put at risk from harm or abused. This is regardless of their age, gender, religion, ethnicity or disability.

At Cheddar First school, it is **everyone's responsibility** to protect children and keep them safe.



What we will talk to the children about

In school we will focus on:-

- What is safeguarding and who is responsible? This includes meeting the safeguarding team.
- Who children can talk to if they are concerned or worried about something
- Our school rules and the high expectations we have of behaviour
- How children can stay safe in and around the school
- How to play together safely and respectfully

Who can you speak to?

If you have a concern about any child in our school, then it is your responsibility to say something to us. Remember, 'Safeguarding' is everybody's responsibility!

You can speak to any member of staff in school. We also have a team of designated safeguarding leads - Mrs Smith (DSL), Mrs Wade (DDSL), Mrs Griffin (DDSL) and our School Safeguarding Partner Mrs Hale



They can be contacted via the school on 01934 742546 or office@cheddarfirstschool.co.uk

As parents, you can contact support agencies directly on:-

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224

NSPCC: Keeping children safe online

We will ask questions...



It is our job to ask questions so please do not be offended when or if we do.

Times we might ask you a safeguarding question:

- If your child has an abnormal mark or bruise that you may have forgotten to tell us about
- If your child says something that we need to ask you a bit more about
- If your child's behaviour changes
- If you are late bringing or collecting your child
- If your child's attendance is poor
- If we think you look like you may be struggling or in need of support
- If we think we can smell unusual substances on you or your child's clothing or belongings

We are not judging; we are just following the safeguarding guidelines that every school has.

Ways you can help:

- Let us know if your child has had an accident and has a mark.
- Let us know if there are changes at home that may mean your child's behaviour is different.

Before and after school

Before and after school are times when parents are responsible for their children on the school site. Therefore, we ask that:

- You make sure that once on the school grounds, your child stays with you
- You remind your child not to climb on the equipment
- You ensure your child reaches their classroom safely and you collect your child from their teacher after school
- You remind your child to stay with you and not run, scoot or cycle ahead



The Somerset Safeguarding Partnership has a wealth of resources to support understanding of safeguarding, the different types of abuse and information about how to report concerns.

<https://somensetsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/>

The NSPCC website has a wealth of information and resources to help keep children safe.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>