SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

Our safeguarding newsletter intends on sharing information with you regarding the school's safeguarding procedures and protocols as well as providing you with current safeguarding updates.

We hope you will find the following information useful. **Remember:**
Everyone has a responsibility to keep children and young people safe.

What is a Designated Safeguarding Lead?

A Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is the staff member who takes the lead on all issues related to child protection and safeguarding. They make sure children are safe, staff are trained and any concerns are dealt with properly.

Our DSLs respond to any safeguarding or child-protection concerns, work closely with families and liaise with external agencies such as social care to ensure pupils receive the right support. They are also required to keep accurate, confidential records, oversee help for vulnerable pupils, maintain and update the school's safeguarding policies and promote a safe culture throughout the school.

At Westgate, there are four trained DSLs, including Miss Bethell, who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead. A DSL or trained deputy DSL is always available during school hours to respond quickly to any concerns.

Parents can contact a DSL if they are worried about:

- Their child's or another child's safety or wellbeing
- Bullying, online safety, or peer issues
- Concerns about another child
- Home life changes affecting their child
- Anything that might put a child at risk

OUR DSL TEAM

Miss C. Bethell
Head of School
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs C. Jones
Pastoral Support/FLO
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

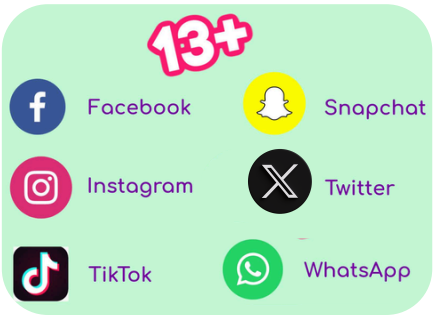
Mrs L. Milligan
SENCO
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs L. Crosley
Executive Headteacher
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child, please speak to one of our DSLs as soon as possible.

Social Media

An increasing number of children are using social media apps on devices. We urge you to check your children's phones and accounts. Please be reminded of the guidance information below, which shows account holders on these social media sites and apps to be a minimum of 13 years old.



Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 10th February we will be celebrating Safer Internet Day in school. The focus will be on AI, what it is and how we can use AI safely and responsibly to enhance our learning.
Further information will be shared soon. You can find out more by visiting:
https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026

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Early Help

If your child's behaviour at home (or at school) is having an impact on daily family life, we may suggest a referral to Early Help.

Early Help is a supportive service that brings different agencies together so families can receive the right support at the right time. The aim is to make sure children are safe, happy, and able to thrive both emotionally and academically.

If Early Help feels appropriate, your family would be assigned an Early Help worker. They would get to know you and your child, visit you at home and also see your child in school. Together, you would agree on a simple plan to help things improve. This is very much a supportive process, with everyone working together.

Early Help usually runs for around 12 weeks, with the intention that the strategies and support you receive can continue to help you even after the Early Help involvement ends.

For a copy of our school's Child Protection Policy, please visit our school website following this link: https://westgateprimary.org/About_Us/Policies/

Early Help continued...

You are also able to make a self-referral using the link below...

Kent County Council - Children's Services

or email: Frontdoor@kent.gov.uk who will advise on next steps to referral.

Reminder

Our main school gate opens at 8:15am. Please remind your child to wait safely whilst waiting for the school gate to open at 8:30am. **Children should not ride their scooters or bikes within the school gates.** Please also ensure your child is escorted to the bottom gate where a member of Westgate staff will greet them. This ensures a smooth and safe start to the school day.

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Useful Safeguarding Acronyms and Vocabulary

KCSIE: Keeping Children Safe in Education
CP: Child Protection **CiN:** Child in Need
SEND: Special Educational Needs & Disabilities.
MASH: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
CEOP: Child Exploitation and On-Line Protection Centre
PREVENT: Part of the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn in to extremism
CAMHs: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CYPMHS: Children and Young People's Mental Health Services

USEFUL LINKS

- Kent Adult Education - Parenting
- Kent Community Health - Understanding your child
- Kent County Council - Support for parents with SEND children
- Purple Parenting