



Safeguarding Newsletter

Summer Term 2026



WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD?

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies straightaway.

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999

Meet the Designated Safeguarding Team:

The Safeguarding Team oversee and co-ordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe.

They regularly attend training to ensure their skills and knowledge are up to-date.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs S. Fawn



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:



Mrs K. Patterson



Miss D. Richardson

All can be contacted via the office or by telephone on: 01472 691887

For a copy of our school's Child Protection Policy, please visit the Safeguarding page on our school website:

[Child Protection Policy](#)

Talking to children about what's happening in the world

Many of the events happening around the world are discussed frequently in the news and on social media. Even if adults try to shield children from it, they often pick up snippets of conversations, headlines or comments from other children. Because of this, children may already have partial information, misunderstandings or worries that they have not shared.

For primary-aged children, it is usually better that the trusted adults in their lives help them make sense of what they are hearing. When parents and carers talk openly and calmly about world events, it helps children feel safe, supported and able to ask questions. The goal is not to give lots of detail or expose children to distressing information. Instead, it is about helping them understand the basics, reassuring them that they are safe and reminding them that many people are working hard to help.

When children are not given opportunities to talk, they sometimes fill in the gaps with their imagination, which can make things feel scarier than they really are.

Top tip: Use child-friendly news If your child is interested in finding out more, it can help to use news sources designed specifically for children. Programmes such as BBC Newsround explain current events in a clear, age-appropriate way that avoids unnecessary distress.

Attendance & Safeguarding

At Old Clee Primary Academy we believe there is a strong link between attendance and safeguarding. A child's absence from school can often be an early indicator of an increased need within a family and poor attendance can be a sign of a safeguarding concern. A child who is not in school is a child who is not achieving: development, social and emotional wellbeing and safety may all be compromised.

It is important that if your child is going to be absent from school, parents call in every day throughout the absence.

Online Safety - Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Important update for parents and carers: Understanding AI and the new UK law

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has rapidly become a part of our children's digital playground. From creating imaginative stories to generating funny images, AI tools offer endless possibilities. However, it's crucial to be aware of how innocent fun can sometimes cross into harmful territory.

The appeal of AI for children

Children are naturally curious and love to experiment. AI tools that can transform photos or generate images can be fascinating. They might use these tools to create humorous pictures of themselves or friends, thinking it's all in good fun.

When fun turns harmful

What starts as a joke can quickly escalate. Altering images to make someone look silly can lead to embarrassment or bullying. More concerning is the potential to create or share images that are inappropriate or indecent, even if unintentionally. Such actions can have serious emotional impacts on all involved.

The legal perspective

The UK has stringent laws to protect individuals from the creation and distribution of indecent images, especially involving minors. Even digitally altered images fall under these laws. It's essential to understand that: Creating or sharing indecent images of anyone under 18 is illegal, regardless of intent. Possessing such images, even if created as a joke, is a criminal offence. Encouraging others to create or share these images is also against the law.

Helping our children navigate sexism and misogyny

In recent years, schools across the UK have seen a rise in children repeating sexist language, stereotypes and harmful attitudes, sometimes without fully understanding what they mean. These ideas don't appear out of nowhere. Many children are encountering them online, often through platforms and personalities that can seem harmless at first glance.

Where are children hearing these messages?

Children of primary school age are increasingly exposed to content through:

- YouTube - Videos, 'shorts' and gaming content can sometimes include sexist jokes, stereotypes or influencers promoting harmful views about girls and women.
- TikTok - Short, fast-moving clips can expose children to trends or influencers who normalise disrespectful attitudes.
- Snapchat - Private sharing and stories can spread unmoderated content between peers.
- Roblox and Fortnite - Chat functions and user-generated content can sometimes include inappropriate language or ideas. The games available on Roblox can often encourage harmful attitudes.
- WhatsApp groups - Even younger children may be part of group chats where videos, memes or comments are shared without adult oversight.

How might this show up in school?

In the classroom and playground, these influences can appear as:

- Boys and girls repeating phrases they've heard online without understanding the meaning.
- Comments that suggest girls are 'less than' boys or should behave in certain ways.
- Exclusion or teasing based on gender.
- Increased use of disrespectful or sexualised language to other children and staff.

Often, children are not intending to harm - they are experimenting with language and ideas, they've picked up elsewhere. However, it is important we address this early so it does not become normalised.

Gender stereotyping

Language plays a powerful role in shaping children's understanding of gender, and the school environment is an influential one.

How to talk to your child about sexism and misogyny

These conversations don't need to be formal or difficult; the most effective approach is calm, open and ongoing.

Start with curiosity

- "I heard some children are using certain words online - have you come across anything such as that?"

Keep it age-appropriate

- Explain that sexism means treating someone unfairly because they are a boy or a girl
- Emphasise kindness, fairness, and respect

Challenge ideas, not the child

If they repeat something inappropriate, respond with:

- "That idea isn't fair - why do you think someone might say that?"

Below are examples of **common phrases and expressions** that can reinforce gender stereotypes, whether they are used by children, young people or adults at school, and some suggestions for more inclusive alternatives.

STEREOTYPED PHRASE	WHY IT'S HARMFUL	INCLUSIVE ALTERNATIVE
"Boys will be boys."	Excuses aggressive or disruptive behaviour, presenting it as natural for boys.	"Everyone is responsible for their actions."
"Girls are so emotional."	Suggest girls are overly sensitive and less rational than boys.	"It's ok to feel emotions – everyone does."
"That's not very ladylike."	Enforces outdated expectations of how girls should behave.	"Let's be respectful to others."
"Man up."	Implies boys shouldn't show vulnerability or express emotion.	"Be brave, you've got this!"
"You throw like a girl."	Uses femininity as an insult.	"Let's work on your technique."
"Boys don't play with dolls."	Can restrict boys' nurturing instincts and interests.	"Everyone can play with what they enjoy."
"Girls can't do maths."	Discourages girls from pursuing STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths)	"Anyone can be great at maths with practice."

Strategies for Parents:

- **Model respectful relationships:** Children learn from how adults treat each other. Show mutual respect and address sexist remarks.
- **Talk openly about gender and fairness:** Use everyday situations to discuss equality, stereotypes, and respectful behaviour.
- **Diversify media and role models:** Choose a range of books, shows, and stories that include strong female characters and emotionally intelligent male figures.
- **Encourage all interests:** Support children in exploring hobbies and careers regardless of gender norms.
- **Challenge stereotypes gently:** If your child says "girls can't do that" or "boys don't cry," ask questions that help them think critically and reconsider.

A united approach

Tackling misogyny is a shared responsibility.

By working together as teachers in the classroom and parents at home, we can raise young people who value equality, respect difference, and stand up against injustice.

Staying Home Alone

There is no legal age a child can be left at home alone, but it's against the law to leave a child alone if it puts them at risk.

Every child matures differently, and because of this, it would be almost impossible to have a "one size fits all" law. As your child gets older, talk to them about how they feel about being left home alone.

If they're worried, work out what parts of being home alone worry them.

Do they feel safe in the neighbourhood?

Are they afraid of the dark?

Talk about anything that's bothering them and discuss a solution. Understanding why they don't feel comfortable will give you an idea of how to help – or why they might not be ready to be left alone. Don't do it if they are not comfortable.

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/home-alone/?utm_old=homelaone

