

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER



Summer Term 2026

Preston Candover CE Primary School

Love, Hope and Justice

Inspire learning for life

Encourage each other and build each other up - 1 Thessalonians 5:11

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS

The designated safeguarding leads (DSLs) for our school are:



Mrs Simrit Otway

Headteacher



Mrs Heather Hulme

*Attendance Champion
Mental Health Lead*



Mrs Dominique Meier

Inclusion Lead

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility!

Please speak to a member of our safeguarding team if you are worried about a child. Our safeguarding team liaise with children's social care and other external agencies to support families.

Our safeguarding team are here to listen, help and support your family.

They can be contacted via the school office or by telephone: 01256 389278

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

Our school Safeguarding Governor is Mr Barry Paige.

Welcome to the final edition of our termly safeguarding newsletter from the Preston Candover CE Primary School Safeguarding Team. In this edition, we will share some information regarding key guidance updates that will be coming into effect shortly, online safety and attendance. With the summer holidays fast approaching, this issue will also focus on staying safe over the summer holidays.

PSHE/ SRE Updates

This year, the Department for Education (DfE) published new statutory guidance on relationships, sex and health education (RSHE), replacing existing guidance which was last updated in 2019.

From September 2026, all schools will be legally required to update their RSHE curriculum and have an up-to-date written policy for relationships education/RSE in place.

These changes matter because good quality RSHE plays a vital role in preparing pupils for adult life, supporting their moral, social, mental and physical development. Crucially, it is also a key safeguarding tool, helping young people recognise when something is wrong and understand how to seek help.

For primary pupils, the updated guidance places a stronger focus on online safety and wellbeing, the use of accurate terminology for body parts (including genitalia), and the introduction of personal safety around water, roads, and railways. There's also greater emphasis on helping children understand change and loss, including bereavement, and on developing communication skills, assertiveness, and the confidence to express personal needs and boundaries.

As a school, we adopt the PSHE Association scheme of work, using their planning and resources so we can be confident that what we teach and how we teach it is both age appropriate, high quality and evidence-informed.

As a result of these impending changes, we would like to invite all parents into school in the near future to share our newly revised PSHE and SRE policy, planning overviews and answer any questions that you may have ahead of implementation in September 2026.

Our updated policy will be on the school website following the consultation phase.

Water Safety

As the weather warms up, children and young people are more likely to be around water – whether at home, on days out or on holiday. Almost half of drownings occur during the summer months when temperatures are higher. Drowning is one of the leading causes of accidental death in children in the UK, but most incidents are preventable. Babies and young children are most at risk at home, while older children and teenagers are more likely to encounter dangers in open water such as rivers, lakes and the sea. Research shows that teenagers and young adults are at increased risk during very warm weather, particularly when temperatures reach or exceed 25°C.

[Water Safety - Hampshire SCP](#)

Online Safety

Internet Matters has recently published a report which details early evidence of progress with positive changes, including families seeing more visible safety features and age checks becoming more common. However, the report also finds that children are continuing to encounter harmful content; age verification is widely seen as easy to bypass; and many of the issues most important to families, such as managing the amount of time children spend online and the risks of AI, remain unaddressed. Families in the study agreed that stronger action to keep children safe online is needed and that more should be done by government and platforms.

As a school, online safety is a very important part of our curriculum, both in computing and the wider curriculum. Alongside our Safer Internet Day in February, we regularly discuss keeping safe online with our pupils. We are pleased that online safety will now also feature more significantly in our updated PSHE/ SRE planning too.

You can access the report here: [The Online Safety Act: Are children safer online? | Internet Matters](#)

We have also attached a couple of E-Safety parent guides, created by The National College, that you may find useful with the upcoming summer holidays. Please do take a look- they are quite informative!

Mental Health

At our school, we are committed to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of all children. In February, we took part in Children's Mental Health Week where every class participated in a series of 5 additional mental health sessions, building on their learning in PSHE and Leader in Me.

Positive mental health helps children feel confident, resilient, and ready to learn. We encourage parents and carers to talk

openly with their children about feelings and emotions, establish healthy routines, and seek support if concerns arise. If you have any worries about your child's emotional wellbeing, please speak to your child's class teacher or a member of our safeguarding team — we are here to help and support every family.

The following website provides further information about a broad range of issues relating to mental health: [Resources for schools, caregivers & young people | Mental Health Foundation](#)

Sun Safety

As the weather begins to warm up, please can you ensure your child brings a labelled water bottle, sun hat and has applied sun cream when necessary before the start of the school day. Please also exercise extra caution with the ingredients in the sun cream, as some products such as Nivea, have previously used Almond Oil which for our pupils with nut allergies, could pose a potential and significant allergic reaction. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

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. We would recommend leaving a child younger than 12 years old with family, a friend or in childcare.

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. It would be unwise to leave them at home alone if they are not comfortable with the idea. The NSPCC have developed a questionnaire that may be useful in deciding whether to leave your child home alone. Follow the link below to access the quiz and for more guidance on this topic:

[Leaving Your Child Home Alone - Advice | NSPCC](#)

Smart Watches

Just a reminder that pupils should not be wearing smart watches into school. Not only can they become a bit of a distraction from pupils' learning, some of them do have the functions of recording and/or taking photographs which breaches our safeguarding policies. An analogue watch is the most helpful in reinforcing how to tell the time, too.

Smartphone Free Childhood

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

As part of a national movement aimed at tackling the problem that smartphones are creating for our children, we would like to share the details of two new webinars that may be of interest to you. The aim of 'Smartphone Free Childhood' is to change the current culture of "everybody has a phone so my child needs one", thereby protecting our children from the serious challenges and safeguarding issues that smartphones present.

Year R & KS1- Tuesday 9th June- 8-8.45pm
 "How to Get the Balance Right with Screens from the Start"
 Register Here: [Year R & KS1 Papaya Webinar](#)

KS2- Tuesday 16th June- 8-8.45pm
 "Let's Talk About Our Kids and Their Tech"
 Register Here: [KS2 Papaya Webinar](#)

More details on the webinars are attached.

Children's Attendance

Our School Target: **96%**
 Our School Attendance (As of 18/05/26): **96.6%**

At Preston Candover CE Primary, we believe there is a strong link between attendance, progress 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.

As a reminder, parents are legally responsible for ensuring their child's attendance at school, unless they are genuinely too ill to attend.

It is important that if a child is going to be absent from school, parents call in every day throughout the absence, before 9am. We also ask that any unavoidable planned absences are recorded in advance on an absence form which can be collected from the school office. We do ask that medical appointments are made outside of the school day where possible to minimise the disruption to pupils' learning.

Please note that holidays taken during term time will be marked as unauthorised and could lead to fines or legal action.

Please visit our school website for more information regarding attendance:

[Preston Candover CE Primary School - Attendance](#)

PSHE- Recommended Reads

Please find below some recommended texts to support some of the PSHE topics taught this term in school. These books feature the topic of growing up and transitions.



PSHE/ SRE this term

As a reminder, this term will see the children learning about the following topics:

- Sparrows- How do people help us?
 What goals would I like to set myself?
- Doves- Who helps us to stay safe?
 What jobs do people do?
- Robins- Why should we eat well and look after our teeth?
 Why should we keep active and sleep well?
- Kingfishers- How can we keep healthy as we grow?
 Puberty
 *SRE- Year 6 only

* Please see separate letter regarding SRE sent to Y6 parents

Further information about the curriculum plans can be found on our school website.

Domestic abuse

Did you know that domestic abuse rises during major football tournaments? Major football tournaments bring people together, but for some, they also bring increased risk.



Domestic abuse can escalate during high-profile matches. Research and local data consistently show that incidents of domestic abuse rise around major men's football events, with reports increasing by around 25% following matches - regardless of whether the team wins, loses or draws.



Do we have your latest details?

Have you informed school you have moved house?
Do you have a new contact number?
We need at least 2 emergency contact numbers.
Do we hold the latest information about your child's medical needs?

Please update your details via the admin team.

As always, if you have any safeguarding queries or concerns, please come and talk to one of the safeguarding team.

Have a wonderful summer,

The Designated Safeguarding Team.