



Safeguarding Officer's page



SAFEGUARDING - KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN OUR SCHOOLS

The Federation of The Downs and Northbourne CEP Schools is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the safety and welfare of young people.

If you have any safeguarding concerns for children attending our school then you can speak to our Mr Turner our Safeguarding officer, or if he is unavailable any member of the Senior Leadership, all of whom will be happy to talk though any concerns or worries you may have.

Below are a small selection of frequently asked questions that you may find useful.

Road Safety



We have Junior Road Safety Officers who, alongside staff, promote 'Road Safety' and highlight hazards to children. We encourage our pupils to take an active role in keeping themselves safe but also recognise that parents can influence children's attitudes and behaviour on journeys to and from school and ask you to support us in teaching good road safety behaviour.

Keep your child safe by talking PANTS

Being a parent always seems to mean lots of worrying, especially when it comes to keeping your child or children safe. All parents worry about different types of abuse and how to talk to their children about some of these issues. The NSPCC have a really useful website called 'Talk Pants.' This site teaches children important messages, like their body belongs to them and that they should tell an adult if they're upset or worried. There are activities for children and advice for parents. Below you will see a link to the website which provides useful advice for parents and carers.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>

From the website children can also watch lovable dinosaur 'Pantosaurus' as he sings and tells them about 'the pants rule' and what to do if they are worried about someone asking them to break it. Be warned his song is a great learning tool but you might just find yourself humming it out loud after a couple of verses!



Worried about domestic abuse?



If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse Deal and Dover's Domestic Abuse One Stop Shops offer free advice, information and support from a range of agencies under one roof to help victims of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse can affect anyone and therefore, if you are a man or a woman and would like to discuss your issues, you are welcome to attend. No appointment is required just turn up.

The **Deal One Stop Shop** is located at Linwood Youth Hub, Park Avenue, Deal, CT14 9UU and operates every Thursday between 10 am and 12 pm.

The **Dover One Stop Shop** is located at Buckland & Whitfield Childrens Centre, St. Nicholas Church, The Linces, Buckland, Dover CT16 2BT and operates every Tuesday morning between 9.30 am and 12 noon.

or you can call the **National Domestic Abuse Helpline on: 0808 2000 247** or visit www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk

Is smacking my child illegal?

It is not illegal for a parent to smack their child as long as the 'smack' amounts to 'reasonable punishment'. There is, therefore, a difference between punishment and what can feasibly be termed 'abuse'. Unreasonable punishment is classed as a smack that leaves a mark on the child, or the use of an implement to hit the child, such as a belt or cane. A parent can give another person consent to use reasonable punishment on their child, such as a babysitter or grandparent.



We regularly have children talk to us with concerns that they are hit by their parents when they are naughty. On most occasions the hitting they tell us about is a smack for bad behaviour and would appear to be lawful chastisement. On the whole they want us to talk to their parents and ask if they can be "punished" in a different way. If you would like some ideas on how to improve your child's behaviour or advice on positive parenting then please see the attached link to the NSPCC guide on positive parenting or speak to our Safeguarding Officer.

NSPCC guide - <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1195/positive-parenting.pdf>