St Michael in the Hamlet
Community Primary School

SAFE | MOTIVATIONAL | INCLUSIVE | TEAM | HAPPY

Safeguarding & Attendance NEWSLETTER

October 2026 - Issue 2

SAFEGUARDING

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility. As a school, safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do, and we want to work closely with families to ensure that all children are protected, supported and able to thrive.

Welcome to our monthly Safeguarding Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Strong attendance and effective safeguarding go hand in hand, helping children to achieve their best academically, socially and emotionally. We are grateful for the continued support of our families in promoting these important messages at home.
This month, we encourage you to take a few moments to discuss some of the following topics with your child:

Safeguarding Conversations at Home

- Who are the trusted adults your child can talk to if they are worried?
- What should they do if something online makes them feel uncomfortable, upset or unsafe?
- How can they stay safe when using games, apps and social media?
- Why is it important to tell an adult if they are worried about themselves or a friend?

Promoting Good Attendance

- Why does attending school everyday matter?
- What learning, friendships and experiences might be missed when children are absent?
- How can families establish positive morning and bedtime routines to support punctuality?
- What goals could your child set for their attendance this term?

Wellbeing and Belonging

- What has been the best part of their week at school?
- Is there anything they are worried about or finding difficult?
- How can we work together to ensure school remains a positive place where they feel happy and secure?

Miss L. Moreton

Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead



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How to Report a Safeguarding Concern

Your child's safety and wellbeing are our highest priority.
If you have a concern, please follow the steps below.

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

Speak to the school

Report your concern to a member of the school's safeguarding team. You can do this by:

Call the school office and ask to speak to the DSL / DDSL

Email the school and clearly mark it as a safeguarding concern to safeguarding@smhsh.co.uk

Speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL/DDSL) or any member of staff that you feel comfortable with.

To report a **safeguarding** concern about a child in Liverpool, contact Liverpool City Council Children's Service on 0151 459 2606 or 0151 233 3700 (available 24/7).



Miss Moreton

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)



Mr Worthington-Jones

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

NSPCC Helpline:
Call 0808 800 5000 (Monday–Friday, 10am–4pm) to speak to child protection specialists and state that you wish to remain **anonymous.**



Extended Safeguarding Team:	**Miss Bower, Mr Bannon & Mrs Day**
Pastoral and Family Help Lead:	**Miss Maddison**
Attendance Champion:	**Mrs R. Basson**
Safeguarding Governors:	**Mrs R. Lucas, Mr T. Basson**

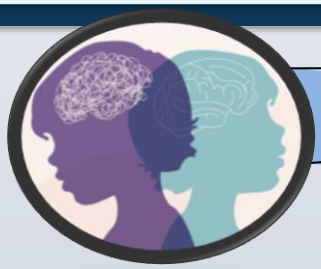
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October Focus: Mental Health



Helping your child to talk

1. How to start the conversation

Pick a relaxed moment

- Over time, you might notice there's a particular time of day or place that makes your child feel more comfortable talking. Set aside time for conversations during these moments.
- If your child or young person is upset, anxious or angry, give them time to calm down. If they're feeling distressed, they will not be able to think clearly and are more likely to shut down.
- Take care of yourself too. If it's been a tough day, give yourself time to reflect and calm down. Talking when you're feeling exhausted, cross or overwhelmed makes it much harder to react well.

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October Focus: Mental Health

Do something together

- Most children and young people find it easier to talk while they're on the move or doing an activity. Some also find it easier to think clearly if they have something to do with their hands.
- Side-by-side talking is often easier than face-to-face. Not having to make eye contact can take the pressure off. It also makes pauses and silences more comfortable, encouraging them to stick with the conversation.
- Pick an activity that doesn't need too much concentration, so you can focus on chatting. You could:
  - drive somewhere together
  - go for a walk, especially if your child likes walking the dog
  - have a kickaround or play catch
  - bake or cook together
  - doodle or colour-in
  - make something out of Lego



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October Focus: Mental Health

Starting the conversation

Start with some general questions to help you both ease into it:

- What did you get up to today?
- How did [a subject they did at school today] go?
- Did you watch the next episode of...yet?
- How's [a hobby/interest/project they're enjoying] going?
- What happened at the end of that [book/TV episode/film]?
- What kind of thing do you feel like doing [this weekend/over the school holiday]?
- What was the best bit of your day?
- What was the worst bit of your day?

How your child will feel: They're interested in the things I like/don't like. I know how to answer these questions.

Move the conversation on by gently checking in:

- It's been a while since we talked about...how's that going at the moment?
- I've noticed that you've seemed a bit...lately. Is everything okay?
- I've wondered if...is feeling hard for you at the moment?
- I've been wondering if something's getting you down?
- How's [a subject they're struggling with/a teacher they don't like/a friend they've had an argument with/a hobby they've been finding difficult] going?
- How are you feeling about...?

How your child will feel: They care about the things going on in my life. I feel noticed. I might not be able to answer the question right now, but I've heard it.

Providing hope and reassurance

When children and young people are going through a hard time, it can feel like things will always be this way. Avoid coming up with quick solutions to complicated problems. But do show that you're confident these feelings won't last forever and things can get better.

You can say:

- We might not have all the answers right now, but there's always a way through
- We can take steps towards changing this together
- It won't feel this bad forever
- You're not on your own with this
- I love you and I'm here whenever you need to talk

How your child will feel: Things can get better. I don't have to face my problems alone.

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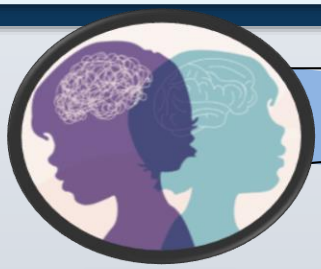
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October Focus: Mental Health

2. How to respond when they're talking

- Give them space to open up
- Stay calm and show you're listening
- Show them you believe them
- Offer hope and reassurance



3. What to do afterwards

- Don't give yourself a hard time
- Talk it through with your own people
- Be available

"Remember that when your child is struggling, it doesn't mean you've 'failed'. You're showing how much you love and support them by being there to listen."

"It's not possible to say the right thing every time, and your child doesn't need you to."

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ATTENDANCE

"HERE TODAY AND READY TO LEARN!"

Good attendance helps pupils to achieve, build positive relationships and make the most of the opportunities at school.

BETTER ACHIEVEMENT
Be in school to make progress

STRONGER FRIENDSHIPS
Be part of their school community

MORE OPPORTUNITIES
Access clubs, trips & experiences

BRIGHTER FUTURES
Good habits today lead to success tomorrow

October 2026 Attendance

Whole school: **95.3%**

KS2 attendance (Year 3 to Year 6): **95.4%**

KS1 attendance (Year 1 and Year 2): **94.8%**

EYFS attendance (Nursery and Reception): **95.9%**

Please email ao@smhsch.co.uk or call the school office if you have any **attendance worries.**

Our goal is to work together before a drop in attendance starts to involve the Education Welfare Officer.

EQUATES TO:		
4 SCHOOL DAYS EACH YEAR	100%	PERFECTION
	98%	IMPRESSIVE
7 SCHOOL DAYS EACH YEAR	96%	GOOD
9 SCHOOL DAYS EACH YEAR	95%	NEARLY THERE
11 SCHOOL DAYS EACH YEAR	94%	NEEDS TO IMPROVE
20 SCHOOL DAYS EACH YEAR	90%	CONCERNS
30 SCHOOL DAYS EACH YEAR	85%	SERIOUS CONCERNS

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- ✓ Encourage good routines, including plenty of sleep
- ✓ Make appointments outside of school hours where possible
- ✓ Contact us if your child is unwell and cannot attend
- ✓ Be prepared for school each day
- ✓ Speak to us if you need support with attendance

We are sure that, like us, you as parents and carers realise the importance of attendance and punctuality.

Persistent Absences

More children were Persistently Absent in October, compared to September this year…

…A child is considered **persistently absent** when their attendance falls below **90%**. This means they have missed the equivalent of **one day of school every two weeks** across the academic year. Whilst an occasional absence due to genuine illness is sometimes unavoidable, repeated absences can have a significant impact on a child's education and wellbeing.