



Watlington Primary School Safeguarding Update October 2025

The start of a new school year is an exciting time, but it can also feel a little overwhelming for some children as they adjust to new routines, teachers, and friends. At Watlington, we place great importance on helping every child feel safe, settled, and supported so that they can thrive.

Building positive relationships with the adults in their classrooms is a key part of this. Children are encouraged to talk to their teacher, teaching assistant, or another trusted adult whenever they need help or have a worry. We also provide a range of ways for children to share their feelings, including:

- **Wellbeing check-ins** throughout of the day.
- **Worry boxes** where children can write down anything that's troubling them.
- **Worry monsters** in early years, allowing children to express their feelings
- **Jigsaw lessons** that help them explore feelings, friendships, and ways of keeping safe.

We encourage you as parents or carers to remind your child of these ways of reporting worries when talking at home, so we are all sharing the same message.

Developing children's **oracy and communication skills** is a current school priority. Through class discussions, circle times, and group activities, pupils learn how to express themselves clearly, listen to others, and build confidence in sharing their thoughts.

Our school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy has been updated for this academic year, and can be viewed [here](#). We also have a child-friendly safeguarding policy [here](#).

Best wishes

Jonathan Gale

Deputy Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead

Smart Safe Working Group



In just over 15 years, smartphones have transformed childhood – and not always for the better. Mounting evidence shows these devices may be doing more harm than good, yet families have been left to figure it out on their own.

There's no roadmap. No NHS guidance. No government policy. Just parents and carers, doing their best in the face of powerful tech companies and endless digital distractions.

Taken from Smart Safe [Website](#).

That's why we're inviting you to join us for our working group:

Wednesday 7th October

17:30 – 18:30

Smart Safe Working Group: Smartphone-Free Childhood

This session is a supportive, open space to explore the role of smartphones in our children's lives — from social media and gaming to boundaries, screen time, and mental health.

Come and share your experiences, learn from others, and help shape a healthier digital future for our children.

Let's start the conversation — together. If you are interested in attending, please sign up via the office.

Young Carers



We were delighted to welcome [Be Free Young Carers](#) and our local MP, Freddie van Mierlo, who joined us for one of our yoga sessions last week. It was a wonderful opportunity to share with them the support we provide for our young carers here at school, as well as the range of activities we offer to help them relax, connect with others, and take a break from their responsibilities.

Their visit highlighted the importance of recognising and supporting young carers in our community.

For more information on young carers, please visit our dedicated website page [here](#).

If you think your child may be a young carer, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us for more information.



Autumn Safety



As the evenings grow darker, it's important we all take a few extra steps to help keep children safe on their way to and from school.

- **Be Bright, Be Seen:** Encourage children to wear bright or reflective clothing so they are visible to drivers, especially if walking or cycling. A reflective strip on a coat or school bag can make a big difference.
- **Safe Travel:** Remind children to stick to well-lit routes and always use pedestrian crossings where possible. If travelling by bike or scooter, a helmet and lights are essential.
- **Walking Together:** Where possible, children should walk with friends or family rather than alone.

Halloween Safety

Halloween is a fun time of year, but encouraging your child to be safe is important:

- Always go trick-or-treating with an adult.

- Only visit houses of people you know and stick to well-lit areas.
- Carry a torch and avoid dark paths or unfamiliar areas.
- Check costumes are safe – flame-retardant materials and face paint instead of masks help children see clearly.

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 any of the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

The following members of staff are Designated Safeguarding Leads for Watlington Primary School:

- Mr Gale (DSL)
- Mrs Sterjo
- Miss Sharman
- Mrs Tanner

They can be contacted via the school office, or by telephone on 01491 612474.

You can also contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to raise concerns on: 0345 050 7666 or via [this website](#).

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

Our school website also has a range of information about safeguarding and mental health / wellbeing. [Click here](#) for more information.