



Watlington Primary School Safeguarding Update June 2026

Welcome back to school - we hope you have a great term 6. At Watlington Primary School, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We are committed to ensuring that all children feel safe, supported and valued.

As we move towards the summer months, we would like to share some important information and reminders for families.

Best wishes

Jonathan Gale

Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Water Safety

Following recent national incidents and, tragically, a tragic water-related death in Oxfordshire during half term, we have been asked to share the water safety information below.

Spending time near water can be fun, especially in warm weather, but open water can be dangerous even if you are a strong swimmer. Rivers, lakes, canals, quarries and reservoirs can be much colder than they look, with hidden hazards and strong currents.

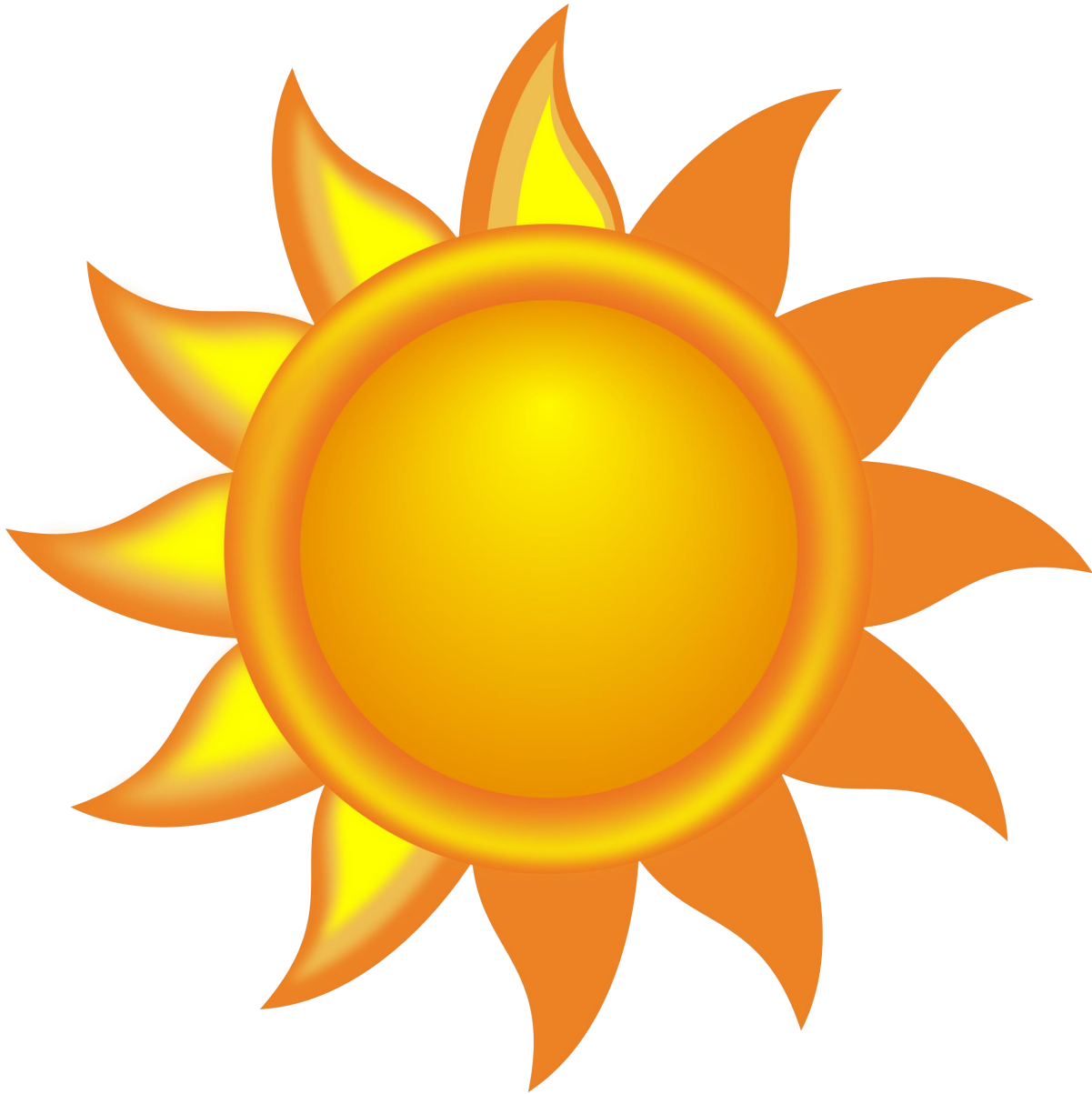
- Do not jump, dive or swim in open water unless it is a supervised, designated place.
- Never go near water alone - stay with friends and make sure someone knows where you are.

- Be aware that cold water shock can affect anyone, even strong swimmers, and can make it hard to breathe or move.
- Rivers, canals and lakes may have hidden dangers under the surface such as rocks, rubbish, weeds, fishing line or sudden drops.
- Do not take risks to impress others, including dares, bridge jumps or entering the water for social media content.
- If you fall in, try to stay calm, float on your back, keep your airway clear and control your breathing.
- If you see someone in trouble, call 999 or 112, shout for help, and throw something that floats. Do not go in after them.
- If possible, choose supervised swimming venues or pools instead of unsupervised open water.

Remember: Enjoy the good weather, look out for your mates, and stay safe around water.

Please spend some time talking to your children about the dangers posed by water.

Preparing for the Summer Holidays



The summer holidays are an exciting time, but they can also bring additional safeguarding risks. Please remember:

- Ensure children know basic road safety rules when playing outdoors.
- Discuss personal safety and what to do if they become separated from family members.
- Remind children never to share personal information online.
- Ensure older children know who to contact in an emergency.

Consider creating a simple family safety plan so children know:

- Trusted adults they can speak to.
- Important phone numbers.
- Safe places to go if they need help.

NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe



Last week, pupils across our school took part in the NSPCC's Speak Out Stay Safe programme. Through engaging assemblies and classroom activities, children learned important messages about staying safe, recognising trusted adults and understanding that they have the right to speak out if something is worrying them. The programme helped pupils develop their understanding of personal safety and reinforced the importance of seeking help when needed.

The sessions also introduced children to sources of support, including trusted adults at home and school and the services provided by Childline. Pupils participated thoughtfully throughout the programme, demonstrating maturity and respect when discussing these important safeguarding topics. As a school, we are committed to promoting a culture where every child feels safe, listened to and confident to ask for help whenever they need it.

Domestic Abuse and the World Cup



Article taken from Safeguarding In Schools Email, written by Andrew Hall Specialist Safeguarding Consultant

With the World Cup starting later this week, it is useful to bear in mind that such sporting events often lead to an increase in incidents of domestic violence.

A 2013 Lancaster University study found a 38% increase in domestic abuse reports when England loses, and 26% when they win or draw. During Euro 2024, police forces recorded 351 football-related domestic abuse incidents across England and Wales, up from 193 in 2021.

Whilst domestic abuse organisations agree: football does not cause domestic abuse. Jo, CEO of RISE UK, goes further, arguing that foregrounding the tournament risks obscuring the real issue. Abuse is a perpetrator's choice, not a consequence of circumstance.

See this poster for details of how to seek support: <https://womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Football-Against-Domestic-Abuse-.pdf>

Useful contacts

National Domestic Abuse Helpline (Refuge): 0808 2000 247

Men's Advice Line (Respect): 0808 8010 327

Further reading

RISE UK: riseuk.org.uk

Women's Aid Football United: womensaid.org.uk/what-we-do/football-united

NPCC Euro 2024 statement: npcc.police.uk

Young Carers in Schools Award!



We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded the prestigious Young Carers in Schools award in recognition of our support for young carers and their education.

The award is part of the Young Carers in Schools programme run by The Children's Society and Carers Trust. The programme helps schools identify and support pupils who care for family members affected by illness, disability, mental health conditions or addiction.

We achieved the award by demonstrating strong support for young carers, including drop-in sessions and dedicated staff support.

For more information about Young Carers, visit [our website here](#).

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.