

Kidgate Academy

Safeguarding Update

Term 5: 2025/26

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 Kidgate Academy:

- Mrs Cook(DSL)
- Mrs Greenfield
- Mrs Cheffings

They can be contacted via the school office, or by telephone on 01507 308620.

For a copy of our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures please visit the 'Policies' page on our [school website](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move into the next term, we will begin to see longer days and, hopefully, better weather which often means spending more time outdoors and getting out and about. Parents and carers are encouraged to teach children how to cross roads safely and help them develop a good understanding of the Highway Code. I have included information below about car seat safety and the legal requirements for children travelling in vehicles. Towards the end of last term, we received a small number of reports of children arriving at and leaving school not properly strapped in. We know mornings and afternoons can be busy, but making sure children are safely secured in the car is extremely important and helps keep everyone safe.

In this newsletter, I have also included a short section about misogyny and respectful behaviour. Although this might sound like something that only affects older children, ideas about gender stereotypes and respect can sometimes appear in primary school too. As part of our work in school, we encourage children to treat everyone with kindness and respect, challenge unkind language, and understand that everyone should feel valued and included. By working together, we can help children develop the understanding and confidence they need to respect others both in school and beyond.

Car Safety for Primary School Children

The law includes several important rules to help keep children safe when travelling in cars:



- Children Under 3 Years Old: Must use an appropriate child restraint when traveling in any vehicle. The only exception is when traveling in the back of a taxi without a child seat available.
- Children Aged 3 to 12 Years: Must use a child restraint if they are under 135 cm tall (approximately 4 feet 5 inches). If a suitable child restraint is not available, they must wear an adult seat belt.
- Children Over 12 Years or Taller than 135 cm: They can use an adult seat belt.
- Driver's Responsibility: The driver is responsible for ensuring that all children under 14 are properly restrained. Failure to do so can result in a £100 fixed penalty notice.
- Penalties: If a child is not in the correct car seat or wearing a seat belt, the driver can be fined up to £500.

Parents and carers are responsible for ensuring that children travel safely and that these rules are followed.

These laws are designed to help keep primary school children safe when travelling in vehicles.

Respect, Equality and Challenging Gender Stereotypes

Research shows that misogynistic language and behaviour can affect both teachers and pupils in schools. Studies suggest that around half of secondary teachers report hearing misogynistic comments at least once a month, and almost 1 in 5 primary teachers say they hear similar comments from pupils monthly or more often.

Although this behaviour is more common in older age groups, attitudes about gender and respect begin forming in primary school. This is why it is important that schools and families work together to promote kindness, equality and respect for everyone.

Building Respect in Primary Schools

At primary age, children are developing their understanding of gender roles. In school we focus on helping pupils develop empathy, fairness, and positive relationships.

Some ways we support this include:

- Using inclusive language such as “everyone” or “the class.”
- Avoiding assumptions about interests or abilities based on gender.
- Sharing books and resources that show girls and boys in a wide range of roles and careers.
- Encouraging mixed-gender teamwork and friendships.
- Teaching children about kindness, fairness, and respect.
- Addressing unkind or sexist comments early and helping children understand their impact.

Language and Gender Stereotypes

Everyday language can sometimes reinforce stereotypes without us realising. For example:

Stereotyped phrase	A more positive alternative
“Boys will be boys.”	“Everyone is responsible for their actions.”
“Girls are so emotional.”	“Everyone has feelings.”
“Man up.”	“Be brave, you’ve got this.”
“You throw like a girl.”	“Let’s work on your technique.”
“Boys don’t play with dolls.”	“Everyone can play with what they enjoy.”
“Girls can’t do maths.”	“Anyone can succeed with practice.”



How Parents Can Help

Parents and carers play an important role in shaping children’s attitudes. Some simple ways to support this at home include:

- Model respectful relationships and challenge unkind language.
- Talk about fairness and equality in everyday situations.
- Share books, TV shows, and stories with a variety of role models.
- Encourage children’s interests and hobbies, regardless of gender stereotypes.
- Gently challenge comments such as “boys don’t cry” or “girls can’t do that” and help children think about why these ideas may not be fair.

Working Together

Promoting respect, kindness and equality is a shared responsibility. By working together—school and home—we can help children grow into young people who treat others with respect, value differences and speak up when something is unfair.

