PUTTERIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Safeguarding Newsletter

Autumn 2, 2026

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 the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies straightaway.

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

Meet the Designated Safeguarding Team:

The Safeguarding Team oversee and co-ordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe. They regularly attend training to ensure their skills and knowledge are up-to-date.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs V Prowle



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:





Mr C Pickard Miss N Chinnery

School Safeguarding Governors:

Miss L Bewsy & Mrs C Deveney

All can be contacted via the office or by telephone on:
01582 728262

For a copy of our school's Child Protection Policy, please visit the Safeguarding page on our school website:



Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,
Welcome to the second safeguarding newsletter of the year.
It is hard to believe how quickly the autumn term is passing! As the days shorten and the weather turns colder, many will be looking ahead to the festive season. For some, this is a time of excitement and celebration, whilst for others it can bring additional worries. We recognise that the autumn and winter months can be challenging for a variety of reasons, not least with the financial pressures they bring.
We would like to remind all families that support **is** available. If you are finding things difficult, or are worried about your child or family situation, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Brown. Whether you need practical assistance, guidance in accessing local support services, help with referrals, or simply someone to talk to, we are here to help.
Equally, if your child is facing difficulties with friendships, emotional wellbeing, attendance or any other aspect of school life, please let us know. Working together at an early stage often makes a huge difference and helps ensure that children receive the support they need.

Mrs V Prowle *(Designated Safeguarding Lead)*

Report any concerns if you suspect a child is being abused or is in danger of being abused. Please contact a Designated Safeguarding Lead, or any member of staff. You can also contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on:

☎: 01582 547653

Out of Hours service: 0300 300 8123

💻 MASH@luton.gov.uk

Or make an online referral via the website:
https://directory.luton.gov.uk/kb5/luton/directory/service.page?id=aJZE_OSgZfQ

Useful Safeguarding Acronyms and Vocabulary

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead
MASH: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
CP: Child Protection
CiN: Child in Need
FPT: Family Partnership Team
TAF: Team Around the Family
CEOP: Child Exploitation and On-Line Protection Centre
KCSIE: Keeping Children Safe in Education
PREVENT: Part of the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn in to extremism
CAMHs: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CHUMS: Mental Health and Wellbeing Service
SEND: Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Did you know?

New analysis of road casualty data by 'Brake' revealed that **every 19 days** the equivalent of a whole class of young children is killed or seriously injured on Britain's roads.



BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN!

At this time of year, I always like to remind everyone about the vulnerability of children near our roads. With reduced visibility as evenings close in and the autumn / winter weather this becomes even more relevant. Below are my annual safety tips so that you can discuss with your child/ren how important it is to be visible when near roads.

These tips emphasise how wearing brightly coloured clothing shows up well in daylight but, as it gets dark, reflective clothing and accessories are far more effective in signalling pedestrians or cyclists to drivers.

If you're a driver, remember it will be more difficult for you to see pedestrians and cyclists when it's dark or raining / snowing. Unlike this image, not everyone will be dressed in bright colours or reflective clothing. Children and others often wear dark coloured school uniform, winter coats or blazers.





To illustrate the point, there's a child in the same position on both photos (left). Which one is easier to see?

For more information and activities to do around this topic with your child(ren) please visit: https://www.think.gov.uk/resource/be-bright-be-seen-game/



5 top tips on how to BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN

1. Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
2. If you're out and about when it's dark, wear reflective gear to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
3. Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip-on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.
4. If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
5. Of course, 'Being Bright' isn't the only way to stay safer. If you're out at night, choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and remember to always use the Green Cross Code.

For more road safety tips, games and videos, visit the Tales of the Road website at **www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad**

BULLYING OR TEASING
HOW TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE

Understanding the line between playful teasing and harmful bullying comes down to **intent**, **reciprocity**, **power balance**, and **what happens when someone asks it to stop.**

Playful Teasing

Teasing is a form of social communication intended to build connections, share a laugh, or bond among equals.

- **Tone & Intent:** Light-hearted, affectionate, and good-natured.
- **Reciprocity:** Often mutual or back-and-forth; both people are "in on the joke".
- **Power Dynamics:** Occurs between equals (similar age, social status, or strength).
- **Reaction:** It stops immediately if the person gets upset, shows discomfort, or asks for it to stop —usually followed by an apology

When Teasing Crosses the Line

into Bullying

Bullying is aggressive, unwanted behaviour designed to **dominate**, **humiliate**, or **harm** someone.

- **Tone & Intent:** Malicious, hostile, or purposely meant to make the other person feel small or unsafe.
- **Power Imbalance:** The person or group doing it holds more social, physical, or peer power than the target.
- **Repetition:** It happens repeatedly over time, targeting the same individual.
- **Reaction to Distress:** It **does not stop** when the victim gets upset, cries, or asks the person to stop; often, it continues or escalates.
- **Core Identity Targets:** It frequently attacks aspects someone cannot change or that touch deep insecurities—such as race, religion, gender, disability, or appearance.



Definition of bullying:

"The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online."

Bullying behaviour can be:

- ✓ Physical – pushing, poking, kicking, hitting, biting, pinching etc.
- ✓ Verbal – name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats, teasing, belittling
- ✓ Emotional – isolating others, tormenting, hiding books, threatening gestures, ridicule, humiliation, intimidation, exclusion, manipulation and coercion
- ✓ Sexual – unwanted physical contact, inappropriate touch, abusive comments, homophobic abuse, exposure to inappropriate online content or film
- ✓ Online / cyber – posting on social media, sharing photos, sending nasty text messages, social exclusion
- ✓ Indirect – can include the exploitation of individuals

If you would like to explore this important topic a little more at home, there is a **FREE** Parent and Carer pack which will help you start the conversation about bullying no matter the age of your child(ren). This can be found **here**.



Hopefully you will have seen the ParentMail sent on behalf of Bedfordshire Police on 5th November regarding the law and e-scooters. The force is supporting a national Christmas awareness campaign to help parents and carers make informed decisions when purchasing gifts this festive season.

With privately owned e-scooters continuing to be purchased for children and young people, there remains a significant lack of awareness around the law, the risks associated with their use and the potential financial consequences for families.

Here is a summary of all you need to know:

- Privately owned e-scooters **cannot legally be ridden** on public roads, pavements, cycle paths or other public spaces. They can only be used on private land and **with the owner's permission.**
- Despite their popularity, they are **not toys** and can pose serious risks to riders, pedestrians and other road users.
  - Riders have little protection in the event of a collision
  - Falls can result in serious injuries, including broken bones and head injuries
  - Many young riders do not wear helmets or protective equipment
  - Pedestrians may be injured by collisions with riders
  - Young children, elderly people and those with visual impairments are particularly vulnerable
  - E-scooters ridden on pavements can cause fear and anxiety for people walking in public spaces
- A collision at speed, a loss of control or even hitting a kerb can result in life-changing injuries
  - E-scooters can travel at speeds that make it difficult to stop quickly or avoid hazards

Potential Consequences for Families

Parents should be aware that allowing a child to ride an e-scooter illegally can have financial and legal consequences:

- Police may seize the e-scooter.
- Riders can receive penalty notices and points on a driving licence, or on a future licence record.
- The rider may be reported for driving without insurance.
- If a collision causes injury or damage, families could face substantial civil claims and compensation costs.
  - An uninsured rider involved in a serious incident could leave parents facing significant financial consequences.

