



Derry Hill C of E Primary School

Safeguarding Update – January 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 any of the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

SAY SOMETHING IF YOU SEE SOMETHING

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

- Mrs Roberts (DSL)
- Mr Riley (DDSL)
- Mrs Asfaw (DDSL)
- Miss Hurren (DDSL)

They can be contacted via the school office safeguarding@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk or by telephone on 01249 812139.

For a copy of our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding 2025 Policy, please visit our school website

<https://www.derryhillschool.co.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=14>

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first safeguarding newsletter of this academic year. This year Miss Hurren has joined us as a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. We have also set up a dedicated safeguarding email which will be sent directly to all members of the safeguarding team – safeguarding@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk

As always, I would like to remind you all that at Derry Hill Primary School, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and our top priority. Everyone who comes in to contact with the children and families who comprise our community has a role to play. Everything that we do has the children at its centre. Their wellbeing, their safety, their achievement, their happiness underpins every decision we make.

Often when safeguarding is mentioned, the immediate thought is about child protection – when a child is suffering harm or is in danger of suffering harm. However, safeguarding is much more complex than this and encompasses a very wide range of areas.

At Derry Hill Primary School we ensure that all of our staff and volunteers are well trained in all aspects of safeguarding and this training is regularly updated and frequently revisited throughout the year. We also ensure that our curriculum provides the children with age-appropriate opportunities to learn how to keep themselves healthy and safe.

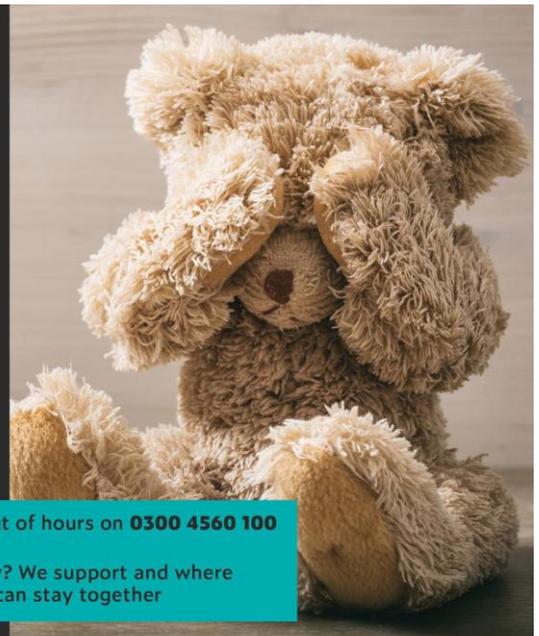
Kind regards, Mrs Roberts

Safeguarding is **EVERYONE'S** business!

- Is there anything that worries you about a child that you know or have seen?
- Are there arguments next door, where a child lives, that worry you?
- Do you see anxious looks, injuries, or not see the child you know at all at times?
- Is that child left alone for hours at a time, or seen to be uncared for?
- Are there young ones in your street, out after dark alone, without warm clothes?
- Would you like advice ?

Then please call: MASH on **0300 4560 108** out of hours on **0300 4560 100**
For immediate danger dial **999**

Are you worried reporting could split a family? We support and where possible help families make changes so they can stay together



Wiltshire and Swindon
pcc



Wiltshire
Safeguarding
Vulnerable
People Partnership

Wiltshire Council



What is Operation Encompass?

Operation Encompass is a police and education early information sharing partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support for children experiencing the impact of domestic abuse. Information is shared by the police with a school's trained Key Adult (DSL) when officers have attended a domestic abuse incident. Children experiencing domestic abuse are negatively impacted by this exposure; with domestic abuse identified as an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). Operation Encompass aims to mitigate this harm by enabling immediate support and thus making the child's day better.

Talking to children about difficult topics

It's important that every child has someone they trust that they can ask for help. There'll be times when children need advice or support. There'll also be times when you need to explain something that might upset them. You might need to start a difficult conversation because you have to break some bad news or ask them about something you're worried about. The NSPCC has lots of good advice for helping you decide how to talk to your child in an age-appropriate and supportive way. But remember that you know your child best, so trust your judgement about what's going to work for them. For more information and support click the image below.

NSPCC



Use of class What's App groups

As a school we are aware that all of our classes have What's App groups (not affiliated or ran by the school.) We fully appreciate the value of these groups however we kindly ask parents to consider the above before posting.
Thank you!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI TOYS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.



The National College

STAY SAFE ON NEW DEVICES

Whether you're an internet newbie or a pro at surfing the web, it's always important to keep online safety in mind. We've pulled together a list of top tips to make it easier for you to protect yourself and your devices in the digital world - helping you steer clear of hazards like misleading information and vicious viruses. There's never a bad time to refresh your internet safety knowledge, but it's an especially smart thing to do before you start using any shiny new devices!



 National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday