

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

We are proud to have a strong and dedicated safeguarding team. If you ever have a concern about a child's safety or wellbeing, please don't hesitate to get in touch with one of us:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Mr Daniel Webster
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs): Mrs Cook, Mr Balch, Miss Hannahbuss

We're here to support children and families. You can speak to us in person, call the school office, or email the school if you'd prefer a private conversation.

PARENT AND CARER INFORMATION

How we keep children safe online in school

At Barrs Court, we take online safety very seriously and have robust systems in place to protect children when they are using technology in school.

Filtering and Monitoring

All internet access in school is protected by industry-standard filters that block inappropriate websites and content.

If a child attempts to search for something unsuitable, an alert is automatically sent to the Headteacher and the Safeguarding Team, so that we can respond quickly and appropriately.

Taught from a Young Age

Online safety is taught through our computing and PSHE curriculum, starting in the Early Years.

Children learn how to:

- Use the internet safely and respectfully
- Protect personal information
- Recognise risks and how to report concerns
- Be kind and responsible digital citizens

We also hold special Safer Internet Days and provide regular assemblies and lessons on online behaviour, gaming, group chats and cyberbullying — all tailored to be age-appropriate.

Useful links for families

NSPCC – Keeping children safe	General safeguarding advice, including types of abuse, signs of abuse, safety away from home, drugs and alcohol, and what to do if you are worried about a child.
YoungMinds – Parents Helpline	Support for parents and carers worried about a child or young person's mental health. The service is UK-wide, free and confidential.
YoungMinds – Parent mental health advice	Practical advice if a child or teenager is struggling with mood, feelings, behaviour, anxiety or mental health.

AI, Images and Online Pressure

AI tools and chatbots are now part of many children's digital lives. They can support learning and creativity, but they can also create risks, including fake images, misinformation and pressure to share personal information.

 Please remind your child:

- Never share private images online.
- Do not respond to threats, pressure or blackmail.
- Do not send money or more images if someone threatens them.
- Save evidence where safe to do so.
- Tell a trusted adult straight away.

Children should never be blamed if they are tricked, pressured or threatened online. Help is available.

Mobile Phones in School

The Department for Education says schools should prohibit mobile phone use throughout the school day, including lessons, movement around school, breaktimes and lunchtime.

At Barrs Court, primary-aged pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones during the school day. If a child brings a phone for safety reasons, such as walking home in year 5 and 6, it must be turned off when on the school grounds and handed in at the start of the day. It will be stored safely and returned at home time.

Online Safety Act: What Families Need to Know

The Online Safety Act is now a key part of how children are protected online in the UK. Online services likely to be accessed by children must assess risks and put suitable protections in place. The child safety regime came fully into effect in summer 2025.

This matters because children are using social media, gaming platforms, video apps and messaging services at increasingly young ages.

 How parents and carers can help

- Talk regularly with your child about what they do online.
- Check privacy settings on apps, games and devices.
- Remind children never to share personal details, passwords, school information or private images.
- Encourage children to tell a trusted adult if something online makes them feel worried, pressured or upset.
- Use parental controls, but remember they are only one part of keeping children safe. Parental controls are useful, but they are not a complete solution; conversations with children remain very important.

Useful websites:

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

**Safeguarding is
everyone's
responsibility**