

# Safeguarding at FUS

Autumn Term 2024

<https://fernup.dorset.sch.uk/information/safeguarding/>

## Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

**As parents, carers and teachers we all want the same for our children – for them to be safe & fully prepared for adult life. Our school is an extremely safe place, Ofsted & student surveys tell us this, & we take this safeguarding role very seriously & will always endeavour to maintain this.**

We have a large, hugely experienced, **safeguarding team** at Ferndown Upper School, with daily support for all students. This is led by Mrs Taylor and Mrs Cheeseman and includes Miss Clements, Miss Abdulgani, Mr Collins, Mr A Jones and Mrs Lock. Our website also contains much safeguarding information (see link above), so please do have a look. There are links to online safety, personal safety, drug and alcohol issues etc. It also includes what to do if you are worried or concerned for any young person either at FUS or at another school.

Students follow a **safeguarding curriculum** at FUS, through tutor time, PHSE, drop down sessions and assemblies. In these sessions a wide range of age-appropriate topics are covered.

**Pastoral** is open to all students before school, break, lunch time and after school - students can go along at any of these times and talk about any concerns they have for themselves or a friend. There are posters around school about the safeguarding team, as well as a QR code to scan and contact us directly via email.

Each student has a **well being card** to support signposting for help on a wide range of issues. Students are encouraged to keep these in their phone cases or wallet - they may not need them now, but might in the future for them or a friend. Year 9 will have theirs issued to them this term.

A recent growing national concern for young people is **vaping**. We have taken the pro-active and preventative approach of having vape detectors fitted in key areas around school to ensure students are not vaping. This identifies vaping and alerts us. Vaping is illegal to anyone under 18 and also prohibited in school. It is also illegal to purchase or provide children with vapes. Our behaviour policy summaries our actions, sanctions and support for a student if they are vaping. We know many parents are concerned about this and can recommend both NHS website and our website for support with this. **Students are not allowed into toilet cubicles with other students.**

We complete **searches**, in line with Government guidance for Schools. We search outer layers of clothing - e.g. blazer and then use a **metal detector wand** to pass over the student to ensure there is nothing hidden on them. Students consent to the search and it is always with 2 staff members. Students are told clearly what the search is for e.g. a vape. If a student refuses a search, it is assumed that on the balance of probability they are hiding something. Full details are in our behaviour policy on our website.

Young people today face many new pressures that were not issues when we were growing up. And one increasing area of **concern is access to drugs and the range of substances** now available. This issue has been further exacerbated by our closeness to several major cities and the national issue of 'County Lines', where young people are being exploited by criminals, which in turn is increasing the supply of drugs into more remote areas like Dorset.

We are determined to not only **educate our children about the harms of substance abuse but to also ensure their safety from these threats whilst at school**. And to this end, we will take whatever action is required to ensure that Ferndown Upper School remains a safe place for all.

We also work closely with the **Safer Schools police team** and **Targeted Youth Support Workers** – who deliver year group, small group and 1:1 sessions on issues around positive friendships, coercion and control, drugs, knives, safety in the community etc.

Our intelligence, through our relationships with our parents and students, tells us that we do not have illegal substances coming into school and we want to ensure that in the ever changing environment, this remains the case. We will therefore be periodically deploying **drug detection dogs** with no notice in our school to ensure our premises continue to remain drug free.

We wish to reassure you that the dogs will be deployed to search a whole building and not individuals. However, during their search the dogs may indicate a substance or residue on students or in property belonging to students. Should that happen, students will be searched (see above). Police assistance will be provided where necessary and parents/carers would be informed at the earliest opportunity of this. Additionally, students & families affected would be signposted to counselling and family support services.

**I do need to remind you, that any student found in possession of an illegal substance would be at risk of permanent exclusion and / or face prosecution.**

**Please do contact the safeguarding team using either the HeadofYear email address or [safeguarding@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@fernup.dorset.sch.uk) with any safeguarding concerns.**

