

# Safeguarding at FUS

Spring Term 2025

<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.**

Continuing our **safeguarding curriculum** at FUS, through tutor time, PHSE, drop down sessions and assemblies, over the last term we have covered:

- **Consent** and **healthy relationships**, including coercion with all year groups
- The reality of a **physically healthy relationship v online content and pornography** with Year 10 and Year 11.
- **Alcohol**: its impacts and the law with Year 9 and Year 10
- **Sexual Health** with Year 10 - including contraception and STIs
- **Eating Disorders** with Year 10
- Dorset Police delivered an assembly on **knife crime** to Year 10.

As we work through the year, we will continue to cover further content including **forced marriage, domestic violence** etc..

**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 **identifying the safeguarding team**, as well as a QR code to scan and contact us directly via email. Pastoral emails are available for all year groups as well - please see the footer band for this and QR code.

Use of **MCAS for attendance**: Parents are reminded that they have a duty to report their **child's absence** each and every day that they are not in School for safeguarding purposes. This can be done via MCAS using a web browser version, by sending an email to [studentabsence@fernup.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:studentabsence@fernup.dorset.sch.uk), or leaving a message on the student absence telephone line. (Please note - we no longer use Parentmail for reporting student absence). We can only authorise 3 days of absence for illness unless medical evidence is provided. This can be a copy of an appointment, photo of prescription / prescribed medication. It does not need to be a GP letter.

Students with **extended leaves of absence** may be asked to attend School Reception for a safeguarding check by Pastoral or receive a home visit for welfare / safeguarding reasons.

Just a reminder - if **students are dropped off early (before 8.10am)** some do go to local shops for a Meal Deal - parents just need to be aware that just because you drop off in car park or students get off a bus - they don't always come and wait in school - some do venture off! We will always inform you if your child has not registered in the morning by SMS and we have not heard from you.

As part of our continued work to ensure our school is safe for all students, we had **2 drug detection dogs** Axel and Polly and their handler in school on 10th January 2025.

All students present in school were seen by one of the two Labradors, as well as searches completed around the school site and grounds. We're delighted to confirm that all students behaved impeccably throughout the visit and that we have re-affirmed our knowledge that our school continues to remain a drug free zone. It is important to stress that we have detection dogs in on a regular basis to ensure our school site remains drug free, not because we think there are drugs on site - this is a **pro-active measure we take to ensure that all students are safe on our school site**, alongside the continual on-going education on how to stay safe.

At break time, many students met with Ginny, the handler, and chatted to her about her job role and also about the dogs. A **great careers insight** for the students.

The drug detection dogs will keep returning to school on a regular basis to continue to support us with ensuring our students' safety.

We wanted to raise parent awareness of **Snus (a smokless tobacco product) / nicotine pouches / caffeine pouches**, which are placed between the upper lip and gum allowing for fast absorption of the product. We are finding some of our students are using these related to sport or recreationally. These are **replacing using vapes** in some cases. Snus has many negative side effects on young people's health and is highly addictive. We recommend that as a parent / carer you have a read around the topic just to make sure you are aware of it, its impacts and what to look out for. If you are **worried about a child and their use of tobacco / nicotine / caffeine - please do contact the Pastoral team** on the Head of Year email and we can work with you to support the child. REACH also offers some excellent advice and support <https://www.edasuk.org/support/yp/>.

**Online safety** - most student phone contracts are in a parents name and we recommend that you keep checking phones. **Telegram** is an increasingly popular app which raises safeguarding concerns. It is not advised for young people and there are limited parental controls. It can be used to purchase vapes or illegal substances.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/social-media-guides> offers further support for parents around keeping your child safe online.

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

**Additional advice and guidance:** <https://fernup.dorset.sch.uk/information/getting-help-the-ferndown-way/>

