



Mawsley CP School Safeguarding Newsletter November 2024



*Welcome to our November Safeguarding Newsletter.
Our safeguarding newsletters aim to be relevant and supportive for everyone in
our school community. We hope you find it helpful.*

Dark Nights and Feeling Safe When Walking

Anxiety Over Darker Nights

As we enter late autumn, many of our children are walking home from school when the light can be fading quite early or walking to school through morning mist and gloom. This can present some potential safety issues when travelling to and from school for our children and can sometimes make children feel a little bit unsettled.

Anxiety Over Unfamiliar Vehicles

Additionally, some of our children have expressed anxiety over unfamiliar vehicles and people that may pass them by on their way to and from school. Like most towns and villages, there is often a lot of unfamiliar delivery traffic coming and going in Mawsley, so it is a good idea to talk to your child about what to do if they felt

We recommend talking to your children about what they would do if they ever felt unsettled by an incident occurring on the way to or from school. We would suggest that your family safety plan could include the following:

- **Reminding your children how to communicate with friends / family or how to call emergency services via 999**
- **Telling children how to access help via staff in public places e.g. One Stop, or TCAM if ever concerned about being approached or followed**
- **Remind children that if feeling unsafe, to approach a parent with a child followed for help as a likely safer member of the public**
- **Stranger Danger advice.**

Keep repeating these conversations at home, to embed key messages.

Be visible

Children tend to wear darker coloured coats for school and this can make them difficult to spot by drivers in and around our village, particularly when vehicle windows can be misty or coated with dew or ice. There are many products that can make your child more visible to vehicles that you may want to consider, such as the following:



Visible backpacks

High Vis Umbrellas

Versatile Head Torches

Light Up Beany Hats

Out of Hours Safeguarding

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child, who is not in immediate danger of harm, please speak to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads.

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child outside of school hours, please contact the MASH team on 0300 126 7000 (option 1) or e-mail them at MASH@nctrust.co.uk . If you think a child is in immediate danger or missing, please contact the police and/or an ambulance directly by phoning 999

RoSPA Christmas Tips

- Make sure you buy children's gifts for the correct age group and from reputable retailers, and ensure they comply to safety standards <https://www.rospa.com/policy/home-safety/advice/product/toy-safety>
- Remember to buy batteries for toys that need them – that way you won't be tempted to remove batteries from smoke alarms
- Look out for small items that could pose a choking hazard to young children, such as button batteries <https://www.rospa.com/policy/home-safety/advice/product/button-batteries>, which if not caught early, can do serious damage to the gastrointestinal system. Never leave these items lying around and make sure that children know not to put them in their mouths, ears or up their noses.
- Keep decorations and cards away from fires and other heat sources such as light fittings and don't leave burning candles unattended
- Remember, <https://www.rospa.com/policy/home-safety/advice/product/christmas-novelties> are not toys and they do not have to comply with toy safety regulations - place them high up and out of reach of young hands
- Give yourself enough time to prepare and cook Christmas dinner to avoid accidents that come from rushing, and wipe up any spills quickly
- Have scissors handy to open packaging, so you're not tempted to use a knife, and have screwdrivers at the ready to assemble toys
- Beware of trailing cables and wires in the rush to connect new gadgets and appliances, and always read the instructions
- Falls are the most common accidents so try to keep clutter to a minimum and make sure stairs are well-lit and free from obstacles. <https://www.rospa.com/policy/home-safety/advice/older-people#falls>
- Plan New Year fireworks parties well in advance and follow the Firework Code. <https://www.rospa.com/policy/home-safety/advice/fireworks-safety>
- Do not drink and drive, and plan long journeys so you won't be driving tired.

