The Fermain Academy
Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
(Student Friendly Version)

Updated by: Rachel Ward

Reviewed by: SLT

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Staying Safe at The Fermain Academy

Student-Friendly Safeguarding Policy

At the Fermain Academy, we want everyone to feel safe, respected and supported. Safeguarding means making sure you are protected from harm, treated fairly, and have people to turn to if you are worried.

Who Can Help You?

If you ever feel unsafe, worried, or something doesn't feel right, you can talk to any member of staff. The main people responsible for safeguarding are:

- **Rachel Ward** – Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- **Simon Cotterill, Tara Dalton, Mike Chester** – Deputy DSLs
- **Tara Dalton** – Mental Health Lead

Their photos are displayed around school and on our website.

What Is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is about:

- Protecting you from abuse, neglect, or harm (in school, at home, online, or in the community).
- Helping you get the right support when you need it.
- Making sure school is a safe place to learn.
- Listening to your voice and taking your worries seriously.

Types of Harm

You might hear adults use words like *abuse* or *exploitation*. These can mean:

- **Physical abuse** – being hurt on purpose.
- **Emotional abuse** – being bullied, threatened, or constantly put down.
- **Neglect** – not having enough food, clothing, or care.
- **Sexual abuse** – being touched, spoken to, or made to do things in a sexual way that you don't want, receiving or viewing indecent images.
- **Exploitation** – being pressured to do things like carry drugs, commit crimes, or be in unsafe relationships.

Abuse can happen face to face, online, or through social media. None of it is your fault.

What To Do If You're Worried

- Speak to a teacher, support staff, or a member of the safeguarding team.
- Write your concern down and hand it to a trusted adult if speaking feels too hard.
- Use school posters and displays to remind you who to talk to.
- If you are in danger outside of school, call **999**.

Remember: **you will always be listened to, taken seriously, and supported.**

Online Safety

- Be careful who you talk to and what you share online.
- Don't share personal photos or details with strangers.
- If someone pressures you online, tell an adult straight away.
- Phones are handed in at school to help keep everyone safe.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Feeling low, anxious, or angry is nothing to be ashamed of. You can:

- Talk to your key worker, Tara (Mental Health Lead), or any trusted adult.
- Ask about support groups or safe spaces in school.
- Be signposted to outside help if needed.

If Someone Tells You They're Unsafe

If a friend opens up to you:

- Listen and take them seriously.
- Don't promise to keep it a secret – adults need to know to help.
- Encourage them to speak to a trusted adult or offer to go with them.

Remember

- Everyone has the right to feel safe.
- There are always people in school and outside school who can help.
- Talking about worries is brave, and you will be supported.

If you are worried right now:

- Speak to Rachel Ward (DSL) or any staff member.
- Call **Cheshire East Consultation Service (0300 123 5012, Option 3, Option 2)** for help outside of school.
- In an emergency, always call **999**.