



Safeguarding Update March 2026

Attendance: Persistent Absence

Regular school attendance is about far more than coming to school each day — it is a key safeguarding factor that helps keep children safe, supported, and able to achieve their potential.

Reduced attendance lowers the **daily visibility** of children and makes it harder for staff to spot emerging concerns or build protective, trusting relationships. Persistent absence is often an **early indicator of vulnerability**.

Attendance habits start early in primary school; patterns set now tend to continue into later years if not addressed.

Even a few days of missed school can significantly affect learning. Children with **95–100% attendance** at the end of primary school have **30% higher odds** of reaching age-related expectations in reading, writing and maths compared with peers attending 90–95% of the time.

Long-term, poor attendance is linked to **lower future earnings** and less favourable educational outcomes.

In our school our data shows:

- Wednesdays have the highest rate of absence
- Year groups with lowest attendance are Year 4(93.6%), Year 6(94.1) and Year 3(94.5) All well below the Government expectation.

What Families Can Do

- Let school know early if a child is struggling with **worries, routines or health**.
- Keep school informed about **any ongoing difficulties** at home that may impact attendance.
- Use the school's support offer—family liaison, pastoral staff, breakfast club, or community services if needed.
- Prioritise consistent routines around **sleep, mornings, and organisation**.

We are here to help

Mis-information & Dis-information

Children increasingly come across information online that isn't always true. Helping them understand what's reliable — and what isn't — is an important part of keeping them safe.

- **Misinformation:** False information shared by mistake, when someone believes it to be true.
- **Disinformation:** False information created deliberately to mislead or influence people.

Children may encounter these through social media, YouTube, games, messaging apps, or even conversations with friends.

How to help your child: Let children know they can show you anything that confuses or worries them. This helps stop false stories spreading further

Show them how you: Look for the original source. Check more than one website. Question whether something sounds believable

Encourage children to ask: *Who made this? Why did they make it? Is it kind? Is it true? Is it necessary?*

If you or your child come across something false or alarming: Avoid sharing it. Report it within the app or website. Talk to your child about why it was misleading.

More information available on Hamwic Online Safety Hub [Online Safety Hub - Hamwic Education Trust](#)

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is when a child is **forced, tricked or manipulated** into sexual activities. Children may not realise what is happening or may feel unable to tell anyone. Abuse can happen **in person or online**, and it is **never the child's fault**.

Sexual abuse can happen anywhere, including within families, online, or by someone a child knows. The effects can be long-lasting, which is why recognising early signs and creating safe spaces for children to talk is essential.

Possible Signs to Look Out For

Every child is different, but signs may include:

- Changes in behaviour or routines
- Becoming unusually withdrawn or worried
- Using language or knowledge unexpected for their age
- Sudden difficulties at school or with friendships

If something doesn't feel right, it's always better to check in with your child and seek advice.

How to Support Your Child

- **Keep conversations open:** Let your child know they can talk to you about anything.
- **Teach body boundaries:** Help them understand safe and unsafe touches in age-appropriate ways.
- **Supervise online use:** Know the apps and games your child uses and keep discussions about online safety regular.
- **Reassure them:** Children must know they are never in trouble for speaking up.

What to Do If You're Worried

If a child ever discloses something that concerns you:

- Stay calm, listen carefully, and thank them for telling you.
- Do not ask lots of questions — just reassure them you will help.
- Contact the NSPCC Helpline (0808 800 5000) for confidential guidance. [[nspcc.org.uk](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)]
- Speak to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead for advice and next steps.

CEOP is a law enforcement agency designed to keep children and young people safe from sexual exploitation and abuse.

[Report to CEOP](#)

British Values: Mutual Respect

Mutual respect goes beyond simple politeness. It's about recognising and valuing the worth of everyone we encounter, regardless of their differences. It means treating each other with kindness, consideration, and fairness, even when we disagree or hold different opinions.

Why is Mutual Respect Important?

Westover Primary is a happy and productive learning environment built on mutual respect. When we respect each other, we can:

- ☺ **Feel safe and supported:** Knowing we are valued and treated fairly allows everyone to focus on learning and reaching their full potential.
- ☺ **Build positive relationships:** Respect fosters deeper connections and friendships between pupils, teachers, and staff.
- ☺ **Learn from diversity:** By valuing different perspectives and backgrounds, we enrich our understanding of the world and each other.
- ☺ **Create a collaborative atmosphere:** Working together becomes easier when we trust and respect each other's contributions.