



Keeping Children Safe at Our School

Safeguarding and Child Protection Information for Parents, Carers and the Wider Community



Welcome

At our school, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority.

We want all children to feel safe, supported, respected and listened to. We believe that children learn best when they feel secure, valued and cared for, and we work closely with families and the wider community to help make this possible.

This guide explains:

- what safeguarding means
- how we help keep children safe
- the kinds of concerns we may identify
- how families and community members can raise concerns
- what happens when concerns are shared

We understand that safeguarding conversations can sometimes feel worrying or sensitive. Our aim is always to work openly, respectfully and supportively with children and families wherever possible.

Safeguarding concerns are not limited to the school site or school hours.

We take concerns seriously whether they happen:

- in school
- online
- at home
- in the community
- during activities outside school

We encourage children, families and community members to seek support whenever they are worried about a child's safety or wellbeing.

What Is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding means protecting children from harm and helping them grow up safely and successfully.

Safeguarding includes:

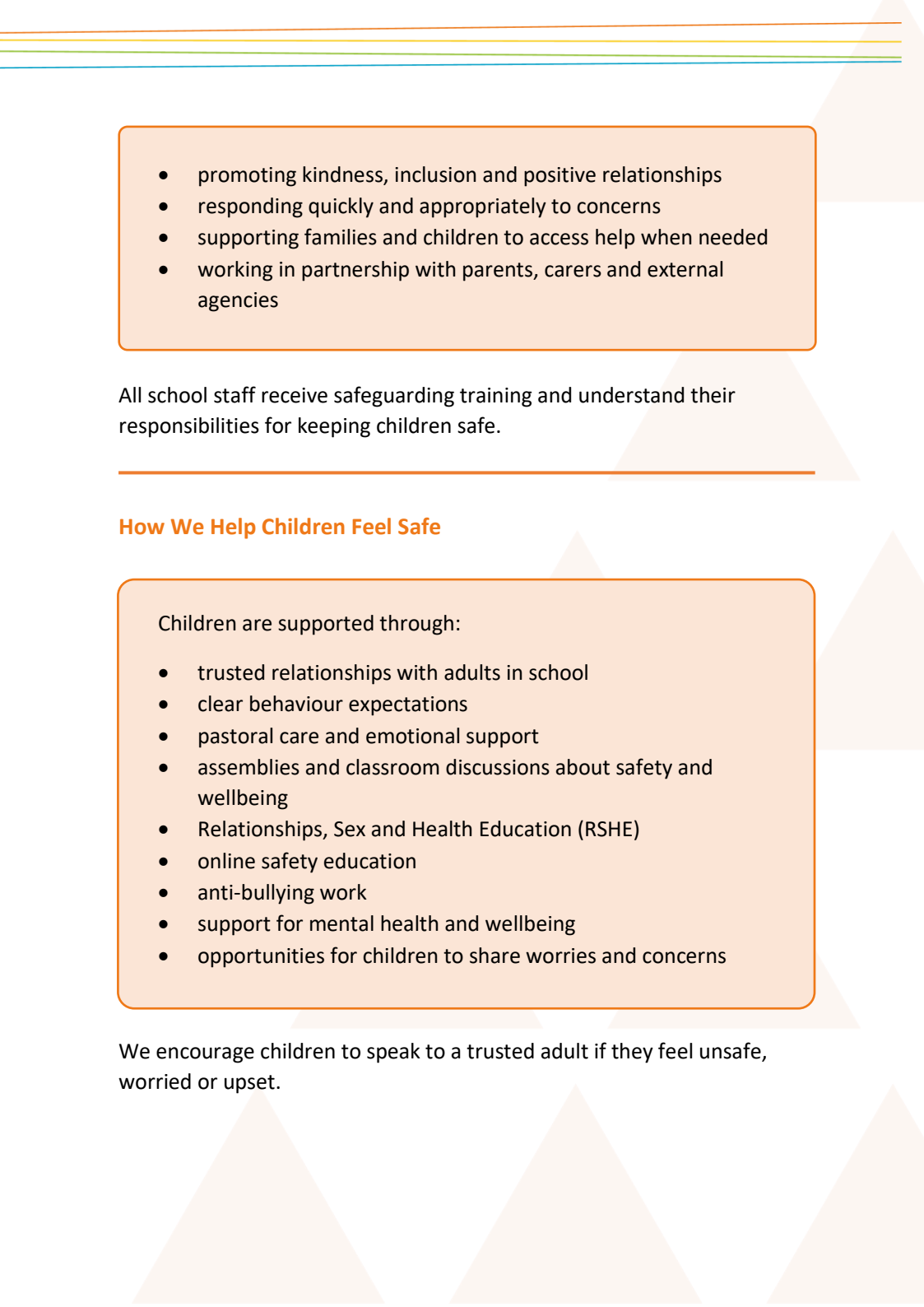
- protecting children from abuse, neglect and exploitation
- supporting children's physical and emotional wellbeing
- helping children feel safe at school, online and in the community
- teaching children how to stay safe and seek help
- providing support when families are facing difficulties
- working with other professionals to protect children when needed

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Our Safeguarding Commitment

Our school is committed to:

- creating a safe and welcoming environment for all children
- listening carefully to children and taking their concerns seriously
- treating all children with dignity and respect

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- promoting kindness, inclusion and positive relationships
 - responding quickly and appropriately to concerns
 - supporting families and children to access help when needed
 - working in partnership with parents, carers and external agencies

All school staff receive safeguarding training and understand their responsibilities for keeping children safe.

How We Help Children Feel Safe

Children are supported through:

- trusted relationships with adults in school
- clear behaviour expectations
- pastoral care and emotional support
- assemblies and classroom discussions about safety and wellbeing
- Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)
- online safety education
- anti-bullying work
- support for mental health and wellbeing
- opportunities for children to share worries and concerns

We encourage children to speak to a trusted adult if they feel unsafe, worried or upset.

What Sorts of Concerns Might We Notice?

Sometimes children may need extra help or protection. We understand that children can be harmed by adults or by other children. Harm can happen at home, at school, online or in the community.

Concerns can look different for every child, but examples may include:

Changes in behaviour

- A child may:
- become withdrawn or unusually quiet
- appear anxious, frightened or upset
- become angry or aggressive
- avoid school or friendships
- show sudden changes in mood or behaviour
- lose interest in activities they previously enjoyed

Physical or emotional signs

- We may notice:
- unexplained injuries
- poor hygiene or tiredness
- changes in eating or sleeping habits
- low self-esteem or sadness
- signs of self-harm
- frequent illness or untreated medical needs



Attendance concerns

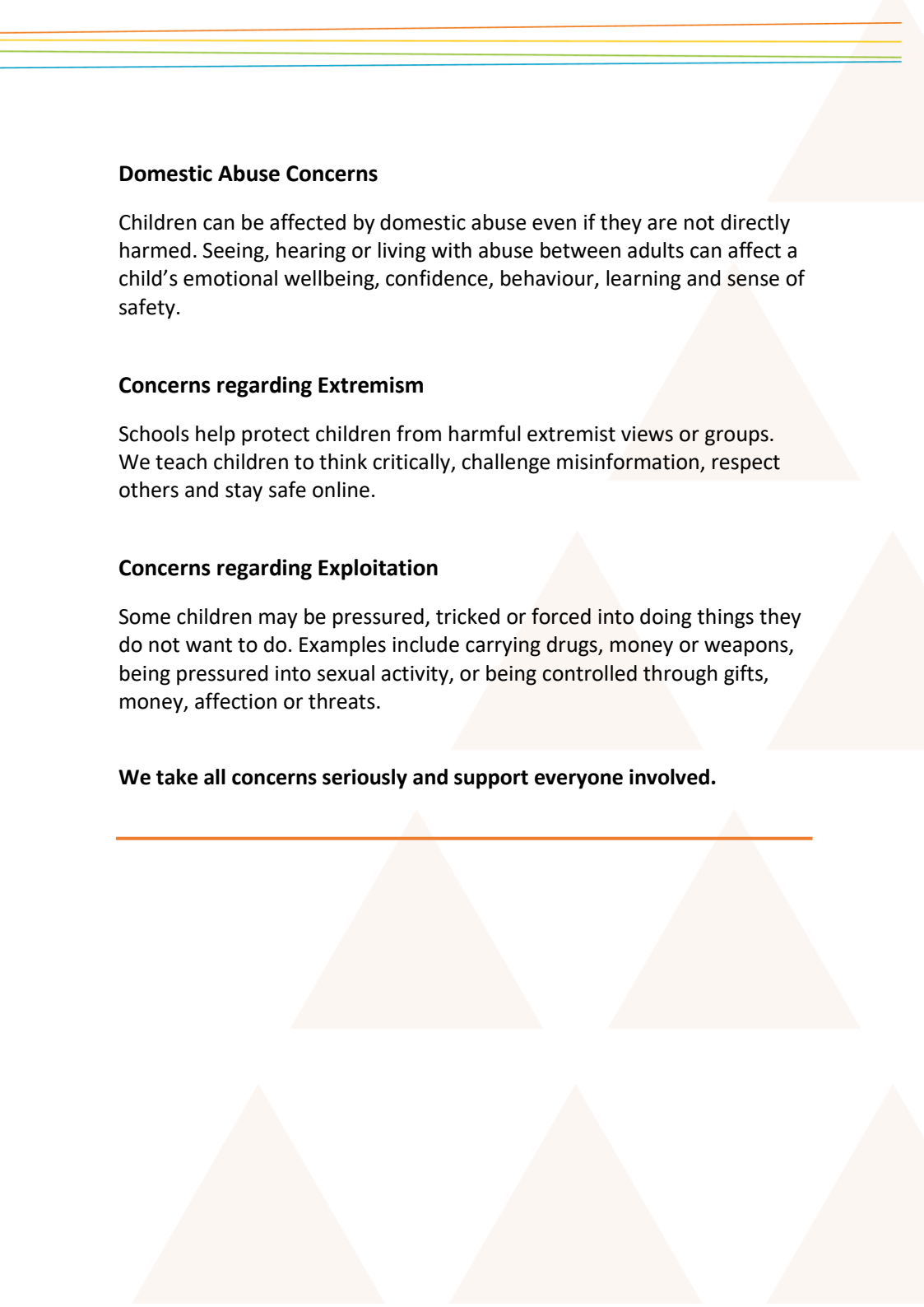
- We may also become concerned if a child:
- is regularly absent from school
- is frequently late
- goes missing during the school day
- has sudden changes in attendance patterns

Online safety concerns

Online safety concerns can sometimes affect a child's wellbeing, behaviour, attendance or emotional health. Staff remain alert to signs that a child may be experiencing difficulties online, or they may be attempting to access inappropriate content online whilst at school.

Concerns involving other children

- Children can sometimes harm other children through:
- bullying
- intimidation
- physical aggression
- discriminatory language or behaviour
- sexual harassment or inappropriate comments
- sharing images without consent
- online harassment



Domestic Abuse Concerns

Children can be affected by domestic abuse even if they are not directly harmed. Seeing, hearing or living with abuse between adults can affect a child's emotional wellbeing, confidence, behaviour, learning and sense of safety.

Concerns regarding Extremism

Schools help protect children from harmful extremist views or groups. We teach children to think critically, challenge misinformation, respect others and stay safe online.

Concerns regarding Exploitation

Some children may be pressured, tricked or forced into doing things they do not want to do. Examples include carrying drugs, money or weapons, being pressured into sexual activity, or being controlled through gifts, money, affection or threats.

We take all concerns seriously and support everyone involved.

Supporting Vulnerable Children

Some children may need additional safeguarding support.

This can include children who:

- have special educational needs or disabilities
- are experiencing bullying or discrimination
- are affected by domestic abuse
- are experiencing bereavement or family difficulties
- have mental health challenges
- are vulnerable online
- are at risk of exploitation
- are in care or receiving support from social care services

Our staff are trained to recognise additional vulnerabilities and barriers children may face.

Attendance and Safeguarding

Good attendance is an important part of safeguarding.

If children are frequently absent from school, we may become concerned about their wellbeing and safety.

The school carefully monitors attendance and works with families to support regular school attendance.



Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Children's emotional wellbeing is very important to us.

Sometimes children may struggle with anxiety, low mood or other mental health difficulties. These challenges can affect learning, behaviour and relationships.

Staff are trained to recognise when children may need additional support. In some cases, concerns about mental health may also be linked to safeguarding concerns.

We work with families and specialist services when additional support is needed.

Online Safety

Technology is an important part of children's lives and helping children stay safe online is a key part of safeguarding.

Children may experience online risks including:

- cyberbullying
- inappropriate messages or images
- unsafe social media use
- harmful or upsetting online content
- online grooming or exploitation
- pressure to share personal information or images
- scams, misinformation and online manipulation

We teach children how to use technology safely, responsibly and respectfully.

Through lessons, assemblies and discussions, children learn about:

- respectful online behaviour
- protecting personal information
- healthy online relationships
- recognising online risks
- reporting concerns and seeking help
- sharing images safely
- digital wellbeing and screen use

The school uses filtering and monitoring systems to help protect children when using school devices and networks.

We encourage parents and carers to:

- talk regularly with children about online safety
- know which apps, games and platforms children are using
- use parental controls where appropriate
- encourage children to speak openly about their online experiences
- remind children never to share personal information or images with people they do not know

Working Together with Families

Strong partnerships between school and home help keep children safe.

We ask parents and carers to:

- keep emergency contacts up to date
- let us know about any significant changes at home
- speak to us early if they need support
- share concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing
- support children to attend school regularly
- reinforce safe and respectful behaviour

We understand that families can face challenges at times, and we aim to provide support with care, understanding and respect.

What To Do If You Are Worried About a Child

If you are worried about the safety or wellbeing of a child, please speak to us.

You do not need proof or certainty to raise a concern.

It is always better to share a concern early so that support can be offered if needed.



You can contact:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Name: Anna Shelton

Role: Deputy Headteacher

Telephone: 0115 9326374

Email: safeguarding@bennerleyfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

Names: Shirley Sewell, Lisa Hart, Dan Liddane, Gaby Marchini,
Rachel Raisin Moss, Jenni Wright

Telephone: 0115 9326374

Email: safeguarding@bennerleyfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

You can also contact the school office and ask to **speak to a member of the safeguarding team.**

What Happens When a Concern Is Shared?

When a concern is raised, we will:

- Listen carefully and respectfully.
- Record the concern securely.
- Consider what support or action may be needed.
- Speak with parents or carers where appropriate.
- Work with outside agencies if additional support or protection is required.

In some situations, we may need to contact children's social care, the police or other agencies if we believe a child may be at risk of harm.

Our priority will always be the safety and wellbeing of the child.

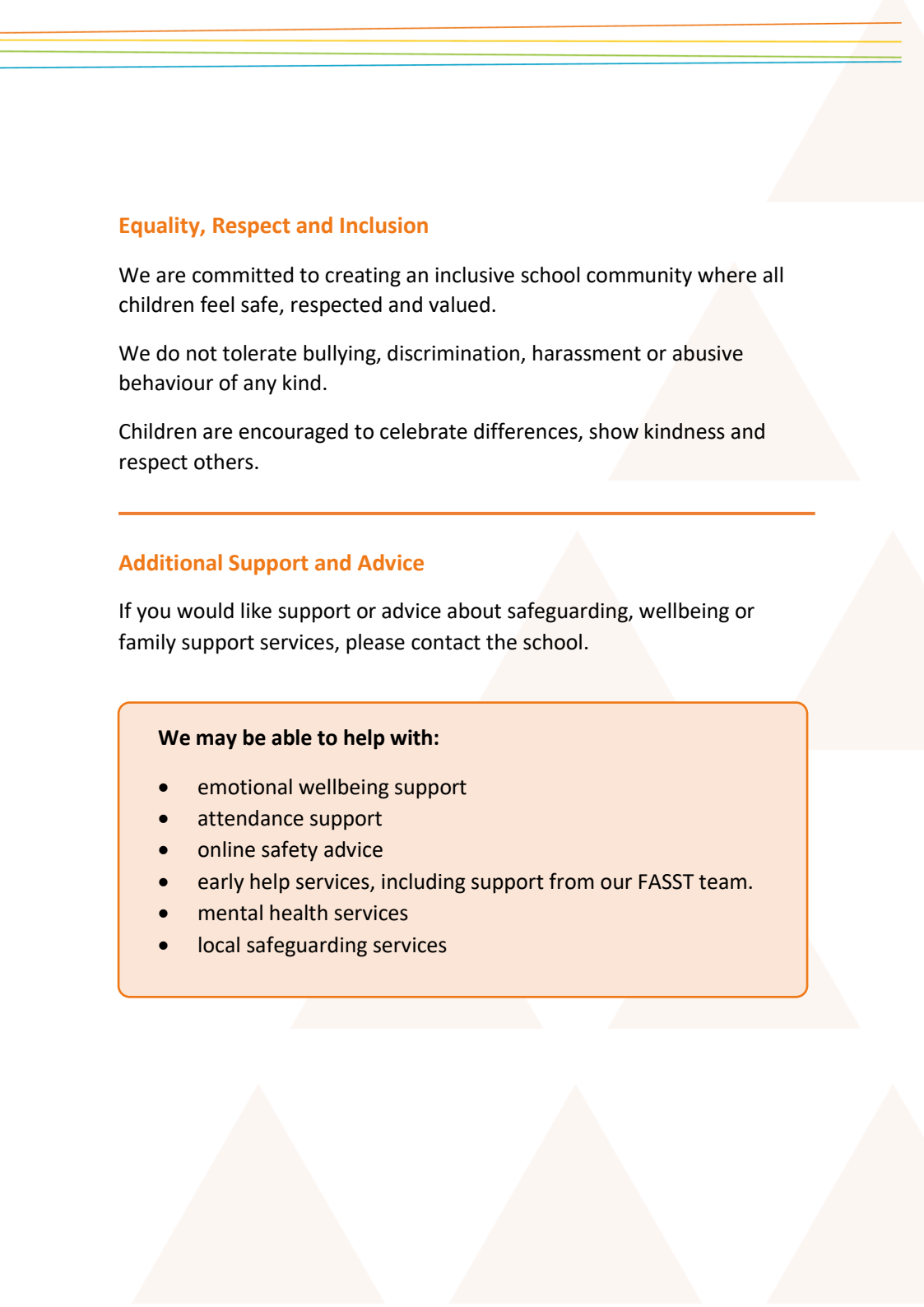
Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Safeguarding information is treated sensitively and shared only with the people who need to know in order to help keep children safe.

Sometimes the school may need to share information with other professionals or agencies to protect a child.

Where possible, we will usually discuss concerns with parents and carers unless doing so could place a child at greater risk.





Equality, Respect and Inclusion

We are committed to creating an inclusive school community where all children feel safe, respected and valued.

We do not tolerate bullying, discrimination, harassment or abusive behaviour of any kind.

Children are encouraged to celebrate differences, show kindness and respect others.

Additional Support and Advice

If you would like support or advice about safeguarding, wellbeing or family support services, please contact the school.

We may be able to help with:

- emotional wellbeing support
- attendance support
- online safety advice
- early help services, including support from our FASST team.
- mental health services
- local safeguarding services

A Shared Responsibility

Keeping children safe works best when schools, families and communities work together.

Thank you for helping us create a safe, caring and supportive environment where every child can thrive.

If you have any concerns or questions about safeguarding, please contact the school's safeguarding team.

School Contact Information

School Name: Bennerley Fields

Telephone: 0115 9326374

Website: <https://www.bennerleyfields.derbyshire.sch.uk>

Email: safeguarding@bennerleyfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

Address: Stratford Street, Ilkeston, Derbyshire.DE7 8QZ

