



## Safeguarding Newsletter—Summer Term 2 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

All staff at Belle Vue have a responsibility to safeguard children but just a reminder to you that we have the following designated staff in place with responsibility for safeguarding:

Mrs. C Davies—Designated Safeguarding lead  
Mrs. S Richardson—Deputy Safeguarding lead  
Mrs. A Perrett—Deputy Safeguarding Lead  
Mrs. C Mulligan—Deputy Safeguarding lead

Governor responsible for safeguarding: Mrs. S Rose

If you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of a child/children please contact the school immediately on 01384 389900 or email [info@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk). **If you suspect a child is in immediate danger please ring 999. If you have a concern during holiday time, please email [safeguarding@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk)**

As the weather is warming up and children are out and about more during this time of year, it is important children know how to keep themselves safe. This safeguarding newsletter outlines safety tips for bike and water safety.

Cycling as a family is great fun and fantastic exercise. But when you cycle with children, it's vital to stay as safe as possible. Brake recommends that children under 10 should only cycle on safe cycle paths, away from motorised traffic. Children should wear cycle helmets to protect their head if they fall off.

### Top tips for cycling safely with children

- Seek routes, where you can, that are entirely off road, using segregated cycleways away from traffic. For anyone, of any age, cycling on roads is risky. Rural roads with lots of bends and high speeds are particularly risky, and so are urban streets with high volumes of traffic, trucks and buses.
- Brake doesn't recommend that children under the age of 10 cycle on roads, ever.
- The whole family should wear cycle helmets; set a good example for your children by wearing a helmet too.
- If you and your children use roads to cycle, make sure you all have lights and wear bright clothing such as high-visibility vests. This particularly helps drivers with poorer vision to see you on dull days as well as at night.
- Make sure your child's helmet is new and undamaged. Don't use a second-hand helmet. Fit your child's helmet with care, making sure the strap is snug under their chin.



## Water Safety

Water is an essential part of our daily lives, whether it's for washing, transportation, work or leisure activities. Unfortunately, drowning incidents occur regularly and often silently, both in homes and outdoor settings.

### How to prevent drowning at home

#### Bathtime

Bathtime is not just about getting your little ones clean – it's a time to play and relax before bed. Drowning in baths is sadly common.

#### 1: Stay within arm's reach

This is the single most important thing you can do to keep your child safe. Even if there's an older brother or sister in the bath, never leave them for a moment. Wet soapy babies are slippery, and if they slide down or roll over, they can't always right themselves, and you won't always hear them trying. So even if the phone rings or the doorbell goes, stay within arm's reach.

#### 2: Take care when running a bath

It's impossible to have eyes in the back of your head. That's why it's important to take care when running a bath. Toddlers are naturally inquisitive and love to climb. Children can drown in any amount of water, so stay in the bathroom.

#### 3: Pull the plug

Just as it's important to take care when the bath is running, a bath left full once a child has got out can still be dangerous. Pull the plug the moment bath time is over.

#### 4: Avoid bath seats

Baby bath seats might look helpful, but by leaving your hands free they can give you a false sense of security. If you use a bath seat, remember that it is not a safety device. You still need to stay with your baby all the time. As ever when water is involved – supervision really is key.

#### 5: Stop slips

It only takes a second for an accident to happen. Energetic toddlers and wet, slippery baths don't go well together! A non-slip bathmat or stickers can help stop a nasty fall. Wipe up any spill in the area immediately.



## Garden ponds

Ponds make a great garden feature and they're good for wildlife too. Unfortunately they're not so good for young children. In fact, garden ponds are involved in more than half of all toddler drownings, with five under-sixes drowning every year in ponds in the UK.

## Grille it!

Covering a pond is a good option for some people. Just make sure you use a rigid metal grille rather than flimsy chicken wire. Don't forget to check it regularly to make sure it's up to the job of keeping young children out of the water.

## Paddling pools

Paddling pools can be great fun. However, it's important to always watch toddlers while they're paddling, and to always empty the paddling pool straight after use. Also, be extra aware following periods of heavy rainfall, which could potentially re-fill a paddling pool or cause other unexpected puddles.

## Hot tubs

Hot tubs are great for social, stress-relieving and relaxation benefits. It is important however to stay safe and protect children from the risk of harm. Our key advice for keeping children safe:

1. Buy a hot tub with a solid and lockable cover - one that a child can only open with adult help.
2. Make sure your hot tub is covered when not in use.
3. Supervise - always ensure children are supervised when around an open hot tub.
4. Store chemicals safely - ensure they are stored out of reach of young children.

## Safety on the beach

Exploring and visiting new places is always fun, but if you are going to the beach, it's important to understand the risks so that you and your family can have a safe and enjoyable experience. At the beach:

Visit a lifeguarded beach where possible

Always supervise your children

Ask for local advice about the beach from lifeguards, local shops and tourist information

Look out for beach flags and learn what they mean

Tide times change throughout the month - before setting off make sure you check the tide tables, so you don't get cut off

Check the water conditions before you think about going into the water – if the sea is rough or you witness high currents, avoid going into the water

Avoid swimming near rocks or coral

Novelty inflatables are not suitable for the coast as strong currents can rapidly sweep them out to sea.

### TYPES OF BEACH WARNING FLAGS

