



Child-Friendly Reporting:

The Worry Box and Worry Monster

At Aston Rowant School we want every child to feel safe, supported and listened to. We understand that sometimes children may feel worried, upset or unsure how to tell an adult about something that is bothering them. To help with this, our school provides a Worry Box and Worry Monster as part of our child-friendly safeguarding approach.

What is the Worry Box?

Both the Worry Box and Worry Monster are safe and private ways for children to share something that is worrying them. The Worry Box is a clearly labelled box placed in a quiet but accessible area of the school, where children can write down their worry and post it inside. This provides a gentle alternative for children who may find it difficult to speak to an adult directly. The Worry Monster lives in Squirrel Class and can 'eat' a child's worries for them,

How it Works

- Children can write their worry on a slip of paper at any time during the school day.
- They do not have to put their name if they don't want to, although it helps us if they do.
- The Worry Box is checked daily by the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) team.
- A member of the safeguarding team will follow up sensitively with the child and take any necessary action.

This process supports our commitment to early help and ensuring that emerging concerns are addressed promptly, aligning with the role of the Locality and Community Support Service (LCSS) in responding to early or low-level concerns.

Why We Use a Worry Box and Worry Monster

Providing a child-friendly reporting route is recommended good practice within safeguarding systems, helping children feel confident in speaking up and ensuring staff can identify concerns early. This aligns with the statutory safeguarding duties set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2025), which emphasises that all staff should be alert to concerns and that children must be able to report worries in a variety of ways.

Additional Ways Children Can Share Worries

Alongside the Worry Box, children are reminded that they can always:

- Speak to any trusted adult in school
- Talk to their class teacher or teaching assistant
- Ask to speak to a member of the safeguarding team
- Use class-based "Feelings Charts" or "Zones of Regulation" systems