

Marchwood C of E Infant School

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2023

Welcome to the first edition of our termly safeguarding newsletters, designed to provide key information on a range of key safeguarding issues as well as sharing any safeguarding updates with the school community. We hope this newsletter helps parents and carers to understand statutory safeguarding procedures all schools must follow and that anyone who comes into contact with children has a role to play in keeping them safe.

What is safeguarding?

The statutory government document "Keeping Children Safe in Education" sets out the legal duties that all schools must follow to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under the age of 18 in schools and colleges.

Safeguarding is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to ensure the best outcomes.

Safeguarding covers a wide range of different aspects. These include types of abuse and how to spot them, reporting concerns, safer recruitment and promoting the welfare of children. The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is critical to safeguarding.

What is a DSL?

A DSL is a senior member of staff who takes the **lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection**. They ensure policies are implemented and all staff know how to raise safeguarding concerns. The DSL is responsible for referring concerns that meet a threshold to social care. They are also responsible for ensuring accurate and secure child protection records are kept. It is not the responsibility of the designated safeguarding officer to **decide whether a child has been abused or not**—that is the responsibility of investigative statutory agencies such as Children's Social Work Services or the police. At Marchwood C of E Infant School, we have 4 staff who are trained as DSLs. Please see below to find out who they are.

What to do if you're concerned about a child

If you are worried about a child's safety, please contact one of our designated safeguarding leads:



Mrs Lucy Chambers
DSL



Mrs Fleur Fisher
Deputy DSL



Mrs Marrianne Andrews
Deputy DSL



Mrs Claire Besant
Deputy DSL

Many people do not act because they're worried about being wrong. You don't have to be absolutely certain; if you're concerned a child is being abused or their safety is at risk, speak to someone.



Know the 4 types of child abuse

Physical

Deliberately physically hurting a child.

Emotional

Causing a child ongoing emotional harm.

Sexual

Any sexual activity with a child.

Neglect

Continually failing to meet a child's basic needs.

Acting on Concerns

Our first priority is your child's welfare and the school is required to take any reasonable action to ensure the safety of its pupils. There may be occasions when we have reason to be concerned that a child may be subject to ill-treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse. This includes occasions when a child has made a direct disclosure to us. We will ensure that our concerns about a child are discussed with parents/carers first if it is appropriate to do so. On some occasions, we are not able to do this due to the nature of the concerns. In this case school is obliged to follow the Child Protection procedures established by Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and complete an inter agency referral. This is reviewed by a MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) team who provide triage and multi-agency assessment of safeguarding concerns. They make a decision as to what happens next and the most appropriate intervention is agreed in response to the person's identified needs.

Online Safety

Going online and using the internet and apps is a part of all our lives. However the internet also poses risks to children. Children are at risk from:

- What they might see
- Who they might speak to
- How they might behave

Please remember, primary-age children should be supervised at all times when online.

Talk about staying safe
online

Explore their online
world together

Agree rules about what's
ok and what's not

Manage your familiar
settings and controls

5-7



28% have their own mobile phone

To go online: 50% use a mobile phone, 83% use a tablet and 27% use a laptop

93% use video sharing platforms

39% use live streaming apps/sites

59% use messaging sites/apps

33% use social media and 33% have their own social media profile

38% play games online

74% watch TV or films on any type of device other than a TV set (88% on a TV set)

48% watch live TV vs 77% who watch SVoD¹

Chatting and making friends online

The internet has many positive opportunities for children to learn and play, but it can also be used in negative and unkind ways.

It's really important to speak to your child about being kind online, and how they can get help if they see or hear anything that makes them feel worried, scared or sad. The term 'online friend' can be used to describe people you only know through the internet, or those that you also know offline. Some children make friends online by meeting new people through online platforms such as gaming sites.

35% of 5 year olds use social media sites. But there are age restrictions for social media.

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?



Sourced from NSPCC website October 2019

Sharing Pictures

Using devices like phones and tablets to share pictures and videos can be a great way for children to have fun and stay in touch with friends and family. It's really important your child knows what's ok to share online and what they should check with you first. With the increase in smart devices for younger children that take photos and videos it is important children understand how to use these safely.

1. If your child is sharing images it's a good idea to discuss the type of things that you think are ok to share and things which you wouldn't want them to share., as well as who it's ok to share with.
2. Look at the privacy settings together. Together, look at the privacy settings for the apps, sites and games they use and talk about how they can help them stay in control of what they share. By using the privacy settings they can make sure that they only share with friends and family they know.
3. TAG – Tell a Grown-up. Make sure your child knows that if they see anything online or share something that makes them feel worried, scared or sad - they should TAG – Tell a Grown-up they trust. This includes any time they ask someone to delete a picture or video, and they don't.

Read [younger children sharing pictures or videos online](#) for more information on the risks and how to support safer sharing.

Games and Apps

1 in 5 internet users are children. Are the games and apps they're using appropriate to their age? While there are risks with most online platforms, it is recommended to only let your child use apps that have privacy settings and a 'report and block' feature. There are many games, apps and channels that are designed specifically for different age groups.

The Internet Watch Foundation have produced some useful guidance for parents about how to manage the risks of children being online. The TALK acronym helps give some practical strategies to help parents reduce risk and use the internet more safely.

T = Talk to your child—yes you can use this game/app but lets talk about you being safe while you're on it

A = Agree ground rules about technology as a family, including time limits

L = Learn about the platforms and apps your child uses—play the game or use the app with them

K = Know how to use the tools, apps and settings that will keep your child safe online

Consider:

- Privacy settings. Are their accounts public or private?
- Do they know how to block and report? Are those features available?
- Can you turn features off, such as chat and in-app purchases?
- Do they know what personal and private information is, and what is and is not appropriate to share online?
- What are their profiles on their games and apps? What does the profile say about them? What does the image or avatar say about them?

All games carry PEGI (Pan European Game Information) ratings. This is what they mean:



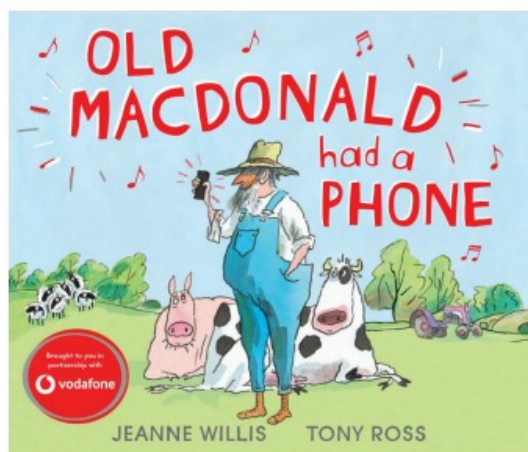
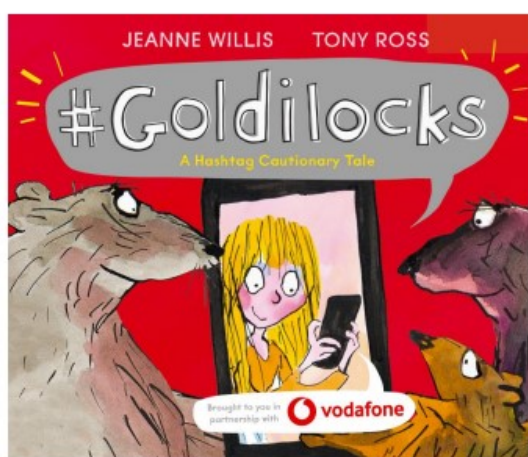
Watching videos and online content

From animals doing funny things, to slime-making and game-tutorials, the internet has lots of fun videos for children to enjoy. But the amount and availability of content online means that children may see something inappropriate. The internet is a public and open space where anyone can post and share content. YouTube is always popular with children, but sometimes children can be exposed to videos that are not meant for them. YouTube Kids is a safer way for children to explore their interests. You can find more information about this on YouTube: what parents need to know. You can also use YouTube safety mode or set parental controls very easily and there are online step by step videos that show you how.

One final thing to consider is that although TikTok has a 13+ rating, anyone wanting to go live has to be 18+.

Further advice and supporting your child at home

Teaching children how to use the internet safely is something we teach in school through the curriculum and assemblies. Here are some good books that you can share with your child at home.



The NSPCC has advice for parents [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

Vodafone have created a helpful digital parenting guide [Digital Parenting - Vodafone UK News Centre](#)

Find out what to do if you're worried your child might see something inappropriate online or what to do if they already have by visiting [CEOP Education \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](#)

Childline also has lots of information about [online and mobile safety](#) that will help you and your child.