

Safeguarding Newsletter



MARCHWOOD C OF E INFANT SCHOOL

AUTUMN 2 2023

Welcome to our latest edition of our Safeguarding Newsletter from Marchwood Infants' safeguarding team. This newsletter is designed to bring you the latest, relevant help and advice on issues we feel will be of importance to you. Previous editions can be found on our [website](#).

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and anyone who comes into contact with children has a role to play.



Spotlight on: supporting families

Christmas can be a difficult time for families. Financial pressures, alcohol on tap, trying to create the 'perfect' Christmas and being cooped up together for long periods can impact on mental health and well being. It can also bring a reported increase in police call-outs for incidents of domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse is abusive, violent, controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour between people aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members. It can happen to anyone.

Children who see, hear or experience the effects of domestic abuse and are related to the victim or perpetrator are victims of abuse themselves. It can seriously affect children's physical and mental wellbeing, including into adulthood, so we have a responsibility to share concerns.

Intervening early helps to stop abuse getting worse and prevent children experiencing significant harm, so it's important to be alert to signs.

Domestic abuse can take different forms:

Physical: for example, hitting, punching, pushing, biting, burning or choking

Psychological/emotional: for example, putting a person down, controlling them with threats and intimidation, blaming them for the abuse or denying it

Sexual: any form of sexual activity that takes place without the other person's full consent (e.g. physical contact, withholding contraception, or pressuring into sexual activities)

Financial: controlling the partner's ability to earn and use their own money and resources (e.g. stopping them going to work, spending or taking their money)

Technology can also play a role in abuse, particularly among young people. For example, an abuser might use technology to monitor and control their victim, share intimate images without their consent, or post false or malicious information about them on social media.

What to do

If you are concerned about someone who is at risk or suffering from domestic abuse please call one of the helpline numbers below; In an emergency always dial 999.

National Domestic Violence Helpline – 0808 2000 247 (freephone 24/7)

The Men's Advice Line, for male domestic abuse survivors – 0808 801 0327

National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline (GALOP) – 0800 999 5428

Action on Elder Abuse helpline: 0808 808 8141

Don't feel confident starting a conversation with your child about what they're up to online? Read this advice from the NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

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 (DSLs).

MIS Safeguarding Team



Mrs Lucy Chambers
DSL



Mrs Fleur Fisher
Deputy DSL



Mrs Marrianne Andrews
Deputy DSL



Mrs Claire Besant
Deputy DSL

There is a wealth of information available online. Please visit <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/home.page> to find out more.

Family Information and Services Hub

Find information about what is going on in your area, details on how to access services, organisations and activities in Hampshire, and the advice and support that is available.



Hampshire's Local Offer

Information, support and services for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)



Childcare and Early Years Education

Directory of childminders, pre-schools, day nurseries, out of school clubs and holiday schemes in your local area



Family Support

Information and resources to support parents and families



Activities, Leisure and Play

Directory of local community groups, organisations and activities



Young People

Information and advice for Young People, including those in care and Care Leavers



Employment, Training and Learning

Information for Young People about employment opportunities including Apprenticeships and Traineeships



connect4communities

Directory of local help and support for those in financial difficulty



Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

Directory of information, advice and support services to support your own and your children's emotional health and wellbeing

Other useful contact numbers

Solent Mind: mental health support and information: 023 8202 7810

South Hampshire Women's Refuge domestic abuse support 02380 637550

New Forest Basics Bank: 01590 610 008

Waterside Foodbank: 07768 713329

Citizens Advice New Forest: 0808 278 7860



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.

If you have concerns about a child, please contact:

Hampshire Children Services

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm
Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm, phone 0300 555 1384

**Keeping
children safe
is everyone's
responsibility**



At all other times, contact the out-of-hours service, phone 0300 555 1373

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.

Key safeguarding information and documents can be found on our website:

[Safeguarding | Marchwood Church of England Infant School \(marchwood-inf.hants.sch.uk\)](https://marchwood-inf.hants.sch.uk/safeguarding)

Christmas Toy Safety

Many parents and carers assume that if they can buy a toy for their child then it must be safe. But sadly, an increasing number of unsafe toys are being sold online.

With many families affected by the cost of living crisis, the appeal of cheap toys could have fatal consequences. The Child Accident Prevention Trust has launched a campaign to raise awareness of the high-risk toys to avoid on online marketplaces. You can read more about this campaign including what parents should be looking out for here: <https://capt.org.uk/toys-online-nasty-or-nice/>

The Child Accident Prevention Trust also has a number of other guides for parents / families to be aware of when buying presents for children. You can find these below:

Toy Safety: <https://capt.org.uk/toy-safety-what-are-you-paying-for/>

Button Batteries: <https://capt.org.uk/button-battery-safety/>

Magnets: <https://capt.org.uk/magnet-safety/>

New Devices

Some children will be getting new or upgraded devices over the Christmas period and older devices may be handed to younger children. This is the perfect time to remind all parents and carers of the importance of setting up devices with parental controls in relation to the age of the child. Internet Matters covers all devices with very simple, easy-to-understand parental guides. Just visit <https://www.internetmatters.org/childrens-online-safety-this-festive-season/>

They have also created some good console buying advice and tips: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tech-guide/gaming-consoles-for-children/>. Please see overleaf for further helpful advice.

Online Safety Tips FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

The current generation are the first children to grow up in a world where digital devices are the norm. Recent studies have found that 88% of British 12-year-olds have a smartphone. Four out of ten 6-year-olds own a tablet. And almost two-thirds (64%) of children aged 8-11 use a games console. It's now rare to find a child who doesn't regularly use internet-enabled technology. Each new device means exciting new corners of the digital world to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

We've put together our top tips to help you guide your children in enjoying new digital devices safely and responsibly.

1. ALWAYS SET A PASSWORD

If your child's new device has a password protection feature, use it! It'll help to keep their private information safe and will deny others access to their device without permission. Your children's passwords should be something memorable to them – but something which other people can't guess (it's also a good idea for parents to write it down in case it gets forgotten!).

2. SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

This really is an essential when your child gets a new device, so they're protected from the outset. Most phones, tablets and consoles allow you to customise their settings to determine which games your child can play, how they can communicate (and who with), what content they can access and so on. It will give you peace of mind that they can't unintentionally do something they shouldn't.

3. PAY ATTENTION TO AGE RATINGS

One of the first things children want to do with a new device is play games and explore apps. Before they download anything or install a new console game, check its age rating. Many popular games and apps have content that's not suitable for younger ages. The safest long-term solution is to adjust the device's settings so they can only download and use games and apps appropriate for their age.

4. KEEP NUMBERS AND DEVICES PRIVATE

Make sure your child understands that they should never share their phone number with someone they don't know or accept a friend request from them. They should also appreciate that it's a good idea to mainly keep their device out of sight, never lend it to a stranger, and never put it down somewhere that other people could steal it or take it to use without asking.

5. HAVE 'THE MONEY CONVERSATION'

Before your children start using their new device in earnest, talk to them about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through their device. Once they understand, you might want to agree on a spending limit and reassure them that they can come to you if they're uncertain, or if they have made a purchase by accident.

6. DISCOURAGE DEVICE DEPENDENCY

Of course, children who've just got a new device will naturally want to spend as much time on it as possible. But whether they're zapping bad guys, watching videos or connecting with friends, it's easy for them to get attached very quickly. Gently remind them that having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise are fun, too. And the device will still be there when they get back.

7. EXPLAIN SECURE WIFI NETWORKS

Your home WiFi is protected by a password that only your family knows, whereas public networks (like those in coffee shops, for example) can be accessed by anyone. It's important that your child grasps this difference because, if they're using a portable device on an unsecured network, then a hacker could access their personal information without them even knowing.

8. LIMIT SCREEN TIME

Using a device for too long, especially just before bed, can interfere with a child's sleep quality and reduce their concentration and overall enthusiasm. It might be helpful to agree on certain times of day when they don't use their device. Most devices' settings let you set a screen-time limit, helping your child to stay fresh and focused so they can perform well at school.

9. ONLY PAIR WITH KNOWN BLUETOOTH DEVICES

Your child may want to connect to another device via Bluetooth, so they can listen to music wirelessly or share pictures and videos with nearby friends. But if they use Bluetooth to link with a device that they don't know, they're at risk of a stranger being able to see their personal information or having someone transmit a virus onto their device.

10. TURN LOCATION SETTINGS OFF

It's safest to disable the device's location services (if it's a portable device) so your child doesn't inadvertently make other people aware of where they are. You can usually do this via the device's privacy control settings. Turning location settings off not only means your child's whereabouts can't be tracked by others, it also significantly extends battery life.

11. STAY AWARE OF THE SURROUNDINGS

It's common to see adults not looking where they're going while engrossed in their phone. Children are even more easily distracted. In some cases, young people have been hit by cars or cyclists because they were staring at their device and lost track of where they were. Remind your child that screens and walking don't mix. If they need to use their device, they should stop in a safe place first.

12. BE THERE IF THEY NEED TO TALK

Even when you've made a device as secure as you can, there's still a possibility of your child seeing something that bothers them, or someone they don't know attempting to contact them. If this happens, listen to their concerns, empathise and reassure them. Once they've explained what happened, you can decide if you should take further action like blocking or reporting another user.



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#WakeUpWednesday



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