

Safeguarding Newsletter



Summer Term 2021

At Alverton Primary School, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and of utmost priority.

The aim of our termly safeguarding newsletter is to communicate key information to parents concerning safeguarding and how as a school we aim to keep you informed to actively promote the safeguarding and welfare of all our pupils.

You can find further safeguarding information in the Safeguarding section of our website, including all our previous Safeguarding newsletters which contain a range of safeguarding information.

<http://www.alverton.org.uk/website/safeguarding/78058> and http://www.alverton.org.uk/website/staying_safe_online_-_who_can_help/550827

The digital technology world is developing everyday and most children now have access to a digital device whether a phone, tablet or laptop. For a lot of children, a great deal of time is now being spent online and they are accessing devices at a very early age. Children can sometimes be more advanced than parents and are accessing games, links and apps easily online, without knowing the risks.

We aim to provide parents, staff and children with the knowledge they need to understand the online risks so that we can all work together to keep children safe online but, despite all the work we do about online safety, and the very strong message about this which comes from school, we increasingly see children accessing games and apps with an age limit above their own. This is increasingly leading to problems for children with their peers as well as wider concerns about their online safety.

Social Media Age Restrictions

16
WhatsApp

13

Pinterest, Reddit,
Snapchat,
Facebook,
Instagram,
Minecraft, **Twitter,**
Skype **Discord**
Facebook Messenger,
Tik Tok
Tumblr, ooVoo

Flickr, Kik, WeChat & YouTube

All require the permission of a parent or guardian.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Make sure you are up to date on the latest social media, apps and games that your children are accessing. Lots of the apps children are using have age restrictions on them due to the risks they present. NetAware provide guidance and tips on what the children can access, recommended age limits, the risk they may present and how to put safety controls in place. It also gives useful guidance on how to keep your children safe online.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

The Think You Know website provides loads of really useful information about online safety including Online Safety Home Activity Packs which include simple 15 minute activities you can do with your child to support their online safety at home.

Childline

Childline provides useful guidance for children on how to keep safe and what to do if they feel unsafe. There are lots of resources and activities to support children and options to speak to someone anonymously through email, chat or phone 24 hours of the day.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>



7 questions to help you start a conversation with your child about online safety

#WakeUpWednesday



1 Which apps/games are you using at the moment?

THIS WILL GIVE YOU A GOOD OVERVIEW OF THE TYPES OF THINGS YOUR CHILDREN ARE DOING ON THEIR DEVICES, ALONG WITH THEIR INTERESTS. REMEMBER THAT THEY MIGHT NOT TELL YOU EVERYTHING THEY ARE USING, SO IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO ASK THEM TO SHOW YOU THEIR DEVICE, BECAUSE NEW APPS AND GAMES ARE RELEASED REGULARLY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION OFTEN TO ENSURE YOU ARE UP TO DATE WITH WHAT THEY ARE DOING.



3 How does this game/app work? Can I play?

SHOW A GENUINE INTEREST IN WHAT THEY ARE DOING. WHILST YOU ARE PLAYING A GAME OR USING AN APP WITH THEM, IT MIGHT HIGHLIGHT SOMETHING THAT THEY DON'T NECESSARILY THINK IS A DANGER TO THEM. IF THEY ACT LIKE THEY DON'T WANT TO SHARE THEIR ACTIVITIES WITH YOU, QUESTION WHY.



2 Which websites do you enjoy using and why?

AS IN THE TIP ABOVE, ASKING THIS QUESTION WILL ALLOW YOU TO FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD IS DOING ONLINE, AND ENCOURAGE POSITIVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THEIR ONLINE ACTIVITY. ASK THEM HOW THEY USE THE WEBSITES, AND TAKE AN INTEREST IN HOW THEY CAN USE THEM IN A POSITIVE WAY, ALSO ASKING THEM TO SHOW YOU IF POSSIBLE.



4 Do you have any online friends?

CHILDREN CAN FORM POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE ONLINE, AND THIS HAS BECOME MORE COMMON THANKS TO ONLINE MULTI-PLAYER OPTIONS, BUT THEY MAY NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FRIEND AND A STRANGER. YOU COULD MAKE THE QUESTION MORE SPECIFIC TO YOUR CHILD, FOR EXAMPLE: 'HAVE YOU MET ANYONE ONLINE THAT YOU LIKE TO PLAY GAMES WITH?' THEY MAY NOT WANT TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOU, SO ENSURE YOU TEACH THEM ABOUT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.



5 Do you know where to go for help?

ALTHOUGH YOU MAY BE THE ADULT THEY TRUST THE MOST, SOME CHILDREN STRUGGLE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS ONLINE DUE TO CONFUSION OR EMBARRASSMENT, BECAUSE OF THIS THEY MAY STRUGGLE TO APPROACH THE NORMAL PEOPLE WHO WOULD HELP, SUCH AS YOURSELF OR A TEACHER. HAVE A CHAT TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT EXACTLY WHERE THEY CAN GO FOR HELP, AND HOW THEY CAN REPORT ANY ACTIVITY THAT THEY BELIEVE IS INAPPROPRIATE ONLINE.



6 Do you know what your personal information is?

YOUR CHILD MAY ALREADY KNOW WHAT THEIR PERSONAL INFORMATION IS BUT THEY MIGHT NOT THINK ABOUT HOW IT CAN BE SHARED. HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT WHAT PERSONAL INFORMATION IS AND HOW THIS CAN AFFECT THEM IF IT IS SHARED BEYOND THE INTENDED RECIPIENT. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOUR CHILD UNDERSTANDS THE DANGERS OF SHARING CONTACT DETAILS OR PHOTOS, AS INFORMATION SUCH AS THIS CAN SPREAD QUICKLY ONLINE.



7 Do you know your limits?

CHILDREN MAY NOT UNDERSTAND THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF DEVICE OR GAME ADDICTION. TALK TO THEM OPENLY ABOUT HEALTHY HABITS AND ASK WHETHER OR NOT THEM SPENDING TIME ONLINE OR PLAYING A GAME IS AFFECTING THEIR SLEEP, PERFORMANCE AT SCHOOL, OR IF THEY ARE GENERALLY LOSING INTEREST IN OTHER ACTIVITIES. YOU MAY LEAD ON TO ENCOURAGING ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSING THE INTRODUCTION OF TIME LIMITS WHEN AT HOME.

NSPCC

As parents, it is important to talk openly and regularly to your child about internet safety. The NSPCC website provides useful advice on different aspects of online safety which may be helpful.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Call the NSPCC Online Safety Helpline

If you have a question about parental controls or concern about a social network your child uses, expert advisors at the free helpline are there to help on **0808 8005000**.

S Stay Safe Don't give out your personal information to people / places you don't know.	M Don't Meet Up Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Always check with an adult you trust.	A Accepting Files Accepting emails, files, pictures or texts from people you don't know can cause problems.	R Reliable? Check information before you believe it. Is the person or website telling the truth?	T Tell Someone Tell an adult if someone or something makes you feel worried or uncomfortable.
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Follow these SMART tips to keep yourself safe online!

Who can I talk to if I am worried about a child?

If you see it, hear it or know about it - report it!
This could be a child being neglected or any other kind of abuse.
Remember - safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Mr Higgs is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for Alverton School and **Mrs Wicks** is the Deputy DSL. They will always be willing to listen to any concerns you may have.
If they are not available, Mrs Clemens, Mr Dawe, Mrs Daylak, Mrs Hall, Mrs Hughes, Mrs O'Neill and Mrs O'Rourke have all received additional safeguarding training and will be able to help you.
01736 364087

Cornwall Multi-Agency Referral Unit
0300 123 1116

NSPCC
HELPLINE
0808 800 5000
help@nspcc.org.uk

