



Parents Safeguarding Newsletter

Summer Term

Welcome to the first of our new dedicated safeguarding newsletters. As you know, safeguarding is an absolute non-negotiable in all schools and because children with special educational needs are at greater risk of harm, we must be extra vigilant at West Hill.

We will be compiling a newsletter every term for parents as well as delivering training, looking after our policy and auditing procedures to ensure compliance within school.

Judy

Operation Encompass

As you have probably seen from the regular school newsletters, we have joined the Operation Encompass scheme which will run jointly between local schools, Surrey Police and Surrey County Council.

Operation Encompass has been designed to provide early reporting on any domestic incidents that occur outside of school and might have an impact on a child in school. Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school teaching staff is informed the next morning that there has been a domestic incident or if a child has been reported as missing. They can ensure that the child is supported whilst they are in school. We are keen to offer the best support possible for our pupils and we believe this is going to be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

For more information see www.operationencompass.org

A great resource explaining Autism

The NAS has produced a new Guide to autism for the police, but I think it is worth a look for us all.

<http://www.autism.org.uk/products/core-nas-publications/autism-a-guide-for-criminal-justice-professionals.aspx>

Summer Time Safeguarding

Summer time, and particularly the summer holidays, can be full of hazards and risks to manage. Here's a roundup of some resources to help you and your help children stay safe.

Water Safety RNLI RoSPA CanalRiverTrust	Beach Safety Shore Thing (RNLI)	Sun Safety Teenage Cancer Trust Cancer Research Skin (including their school accreditation scheme)
Railway Safety Network Rail - Primary school resources Network Rail - Secondary school resources	Keeping safe away from home (NSPCC) Keeping safe away from home (NSPCC)	

Online Counselling for children

'For Me' Childline has launched a new app to counsel young people via smartphone.

'For Me' was created by 4 teenagers who realised there was an urgent need for young people to have easy access to confidential advice and support.

This is a free download includes:

- one to one chat with a counsellor
- 'Ask Sam' problem pages
- Private locker - a personal area where young people can track their mood and write down their thoughts.

Kooth is a local service for mental health support for children and young people in Surrey. They can access help and support with their mental health and emotional well-being. Kooth is a safe, confidential and anonymous online service for young people, specifically developed to make it easy and safe to access mental health support as and when they need it, Once signed up, Kooth users have access to BACP trained counsellors until 10pm, 365 days a year peer-to-peer support through moderated forums, and a range of self-help materials, co-written by other young people. Any young person aged 11 - 18 with a Surrey postcode can access the service for free. You can watch the new Kooth video or read more about Kooth at <https://kooth.com/>.

Other useful online services

Zipit App: The new Zipit App is aimed at children for them to download and use if someone asks them to send a naked selfie. They can then use the app to use images on zipit to reply. If someone's trying to get them to send naked images, they can use the images on Zipit to keep the situation in control. For more information visit the Child Line website <https://childline.org.uk/>.

Kidscape: Kidscape equip young people, parents and professionals with the skills to tackle bullying and safeguarding issues across the UK. You can visit their website at <https://www.kidscape.org.uk/>.

Talking to children about terrorist attacks

Unfortunately, we may have further terrorist attacks. Wherever they happen, the events may create feelings of personal anxiety and fear that children can find hard to articulate and understand. Here are some resources which might be helpful.

<http://seainclusion.co.uk/updates/advice-talking-children-aftermarth-terrorist-attacks/>

Hopefully you won't ever have to use them.

Online Safety- Apps News

There has been lots in the media news about the impact of social media on children's mental health and wellbeing. The research shows YouTube was considered to have the most positive impact on mental health; while Snapchat and Instagram were considered to be the most detrimental to young people's mental health and wellbeing.

There is a great resource reviewing apps in relation to Autism at

<http://www.dart.ed.ac.uk/asdtech/app-reviews/>

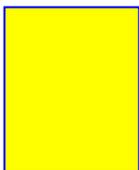
Here are some apps to be aware of...



Musical.ly is a free service and social media platform used to create and share short videos. Children like the app because it's fun. They can express themselves by lip syncing and dancing to music videos. Users are able to create videos of themselves that last up to 15 seconds and in common with many of the most popular apps they can add filters and fast and slow motion effects. Users searching via hashtags can unwittingly be exposed to age inappropriate content.

Musical.ly Terms and Conditions of Use require users to be 13 years or older to use the app. However, many are younger. It is important to remember that the majority of music videos featured on the app are not filtered, this means some include suggestive language, mature situations and sexualised content. Musical.ly profile setting should be set to private.

MyLOL is a teen dating site. There are concerns about adult accessing the site and drawing children into inappropriate activity



Yellow It is another dating app which contains a section for 13-17 year olds but there are no age verification checks which means it is easy for adults to pose as children with the potential for grooming. Users who both 'like' each other can add each other on Snapchat allowing unregulated chat and imagery sharing.



Instagram It can be hard to spot if a celebrity has been paid to promote a particular product so Childnet have published some top tips for critical thinking for advertising on Instagram. The advice can also be extended to other social media platforms.

<http://www.childnet.com/blog/how-to-spot-advertising-on-instagram>



LEGO LIFE: There is a good blog to explain about this app at <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/what-lego-life>



SnapChat used regularly by many children and young people, launched a new feature. SnapMaps allows users to see the location of their contacts which is potentially useful, but also a safeguarding risk. There are three possible privacy settings:

- Ghost mode, where only you can see your position;
- My Friends mode, where any contact can see your location; and
- Select Friends mode, just those who you choose can see you

To change the settings, open your app and pinch the screen like you would to zoom out. Click "Next." On the "Who can see my location on the Map?" screen, click "Only Me (Ghost Mode)." Click "Next," then "Finish."

Monkey Users are connected at random to engage in a 10 second live video chat. They can add more time or add the person to Snapchat to continue the connection. The content of the videos can be explicit or abusive and children and young people are vulnerable to exploitation through the opportunity for private chat with people they don't know

Not an app!



Nintendo's newest console, the Nintendo Switch was launched in the UK in March 2017 and allows gamers to play both at home and on the go as a tablet. Childnet have produced a useful guide on parental controls for the Nintendo Switch to support the safe use of the console. It is possible to set parental controls to monitor use, restrict features depending on the child's age, monitor time spent using the device and suspend activity when this is exceeded.

Useful sites for online safety information

<https://h2bsafetycentre.com/> has clear step by step advice on safety settings for various online sites and apps.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> has clear advice on a variety of sites and apps children use. What the site is, what it does, the risks and the good points!

Support for conversations about internet safety

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/have-conversation>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/>