



Safeguarding Update

Spring 2022 - 2023



If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the DSL team on:

Worplesdon: dsl@worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk

Wood Street: l.bassettcross@woodstreet.surrey.sch.uk

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Mrs Laura Bassett-Cross (Lead DSL, Deputy Head)	
Mrs Karen O'Brien (Executive Head Teacher)	
Worplesdon Primary School	Wood Street Infant School
Mrs Radhika Woodruff (Deputy Head Teacher) Mrs Liz Earl-Smith (SENDCo) Mrs Jeanette Ireland (Home School Link Worker) Mrs Rebecca Punchard (Head of Centre)	Mrs Jo Ward (Home School Link Worker) Mrs Rita Pardi

Listen up, speak up - NSPCC

January saw the launch of the NSPCC's latest campaign which aims to give adults practical advice on what to do if they are concerned about a child and offers training on how to spot and report abuse.

The last year has seen the NSPCC's adult Helpline experience a 14% increase in the number of contacts about in-person sexual abuse. The Helpline's child protection specialists have also taken thousands of contacts over the last year relating to other issues including: physical abuse, emotional abuse and about neglect.

The NSPCC believe that abuse and neglect are preventable and that everyone can play their part in keeping children safe – the main reason for them launching Listen Up, Speak Up!

The campaign has been endorsed by Olympic cyclist, Sir Bradley Wiggins, who last year spoke out publicly about being groomed by his training coach when he was thirteen years old. Bradley kept his experiences hidden and struggled to cope, he said that if someone had spotted that he was suffering and had spoken out, he might have been able to get the help and support he needed much earlier.

The NSPCC's long-term aim is to reach at least a million people in communities and organisations

across the UK to equip them with practical advice and confidence to know what to do and who to speak to if they're concerned a child might be experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect.

DOTS – address the barriers to people acting on concerns:

- **D**on't ignore it
- **O**bserve the situation
- **T**hink: If not you, then who?
- **S**peak Up

Listen Up, Speak Up will encourage people to take an engaging and informative, FREE ten-minute online training course followed up by a series of emails from experts with actions people can take to help keep child safe.

For further information, please visit:

www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/listen-up-speak-up





Safeguarding Update

Spring 2022 - 2023



Childcare Offers

The Childcare Choices campaign aims to raise awareness and understanding of the support available from the government with the costs of childcare.

With school holidays upon us, it is more important than ever that parents and carers are able to access the financial support they qualify for.

You could be entitled to:

- Up to £2,000 a year of Tax-Free Childcare per child
- Help with up to 85% of their childcare costs for children up to 16 with Universal Credit.
- 30 hours of free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

EAL resources for online safety

Leaflets with details on how to keep your children safe online are now available in other languages:

Arabic	Hindi	Turkish
Bengali	Polish	Urdu
English	Punjabi	Vietnamese
Farsi	Somali	Welsh
French	Spanish	

www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online

Parenting Advice (Place2Be)



The children's mental health charity, Place2Be, has launched a new website aimed at helping parents with typical situations they may experience with children.

Advice can be found on over forty topics including:

- Understanding sibling rivalry
- My child is lying, what does it mean, what should I do?
- My child has trouble going to sleep
- My child says, 'I hate you!'
- Cultural identity: who am I?

The Parenting Smart website can be found here:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk>

Football Association

Safeguarding Awareness (Football Association)

Every week millions of children are playing football, many of whom do so with organised clubs and organisations. The Football Association, as part of its safeguarding response, has devised, and created a safeguarding course for parents/carers.

The course aim is to help parents make informed choices about the football settings where they enrol their children.

The course helps parents to recognise best practice and see where there may be concerns, so that they can act and report them quickly and effectively.

The free course can be accessed here:

<https://learn.Englandfootball.com/courses/safeguarding/safeguarding-awareness-for-parents-and-carers>

If you're concerned about a child call
0300 470 9100
cspa@surreycc.gov.uk





Safeguarding Update

Spring 2022 - 2023



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODer is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter ODers. Some player-built Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow friends to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is actually free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money. People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and some private or VIP servers also have a cost.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

PRIVATE SERVERS

If your child has some genuine friends to play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.

MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with other people online safely.

Meet Our Expert

Clara Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/21333431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-are-using-virtual-purses-for-fortnite>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>