



Safeguarding Update

Christmas 2024 - 2025



WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies straightaway.

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999

Meet the Designated Safeguarding Team:

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

- Mrs L Bassett-Cross

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:

- Mrs K O'Brien
- Mrs R Woodruff
- Mrs L Earl-Smith
- Mrs J Ireland
- Mr M Clifton
- Miss L Parker
- Mrs R Punchard
- Mrs Fyfe
- Mrs Tite

Schools Safeguarding Governor:

- Mrs P Alexander

You can contact the DSL team on:

dsl@woodstreet.surrey.sch.uk

dsl@worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk

The Safeguarding Team oversee and coordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe. They regularly attend training to ensure their skills and knowledge are up-to-date.

For a copy of our school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, please visit the federated website: www.wwfs.surrey.sch.uk

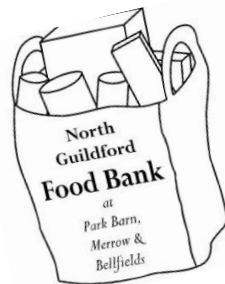
NSPCC

This time of year provides additional challenges when it comes to ensuring the wellbeing of all children. December always sees a spike in safeguarding issues and every year the NSPCC report increasing numbers of children calling them for help. Safeguarding children over the festive period can pose particular challenges for several reasons:

- **Increased stress or family tensions** - Christmas can bring added financial strain, family pressures, or emotional stress. This may exacerbate existing family tensions, leading to situations where children might be at risk of neglect, abuse, or harm.
- **Disruption of routine and isolation** - School holidays can disrupt children's regular routine, leaving them with more unstructured or unsupervised time. This could lead to situations where they spend more time in potentially unsafe environments, including online, or with individuals who may pose a risk to their safety. Children can also feel cut off from their usual support network of trusted adults and friends. Neglected or abused children can experience extreme loneliness, anxiety, or depression.
- **Increased vulnerability** - Some families might face difficulties during the holidays due to various factors such as financial and emotional strain, mental health issues, or substance abuse including excess alcohol. Children in these families might be more vulnerable to neglect or abuse during this time.
- **Reduced access to support services** - During the holidays, some support services, including schools or community organisations, might be closed or operating at reduced capacity. This can limit the resources available to children who may need help or intervention.
- **Expense** - Christmas places families under enormous pressure to spend money. Sadly, in the current cost of living crisis, many will be unable to absorb the financial commitments without going into debt.

The NSPCC have a vast number of resources that support and educate parents/carers about the signs of abuse or neglect. If you feel that you are struggling or anticipate struggling over the festive period, please remember that you can reach out to various support networks (relatives, neighbours, community organisations, school). The school has access to some resources that may support you. Please contact the HSLW for any queries:

hslw@woodstreet.surrey.sch.uk or hslw@worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk



As always, if you have concerns about a child please come and speak to a member of the Safeguarding Team. Alternatively, you can find help for adults concerned about a child on 0808 800 5000.



Safeguarding Update

Christmas 2024 - 2025



Keeping children safe online

A Parent's Guide to Safety and Privacy Settings



scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online

When you give a child access to the Internet, you give them access to the adult world.

The Internet treats everyone as adults and there are many things, they are not yet ready to know, which is why it is vital that some form of safety settings are in place. Doing something is better than doing nothing.

What happens online has an effect to what happens offline and what happens offline has an effect to what happens online.



Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipssed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



www.skipssafetynet.org



Safeguarding Update

Christmas 2024 - 2025



As Christmas draws near, many children may be looking forward to receiving new electronic devices or games, so we feel that this is an appropriate time to highlight some simple online safety tips to help parents/ carers make safer choices and support their children online.

Talk to your children

- Take an active interest in your child's online life and engage in the digital world with them.
- Let your children teach you about their online world and how they use technology; playing new games and exploring websites together can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour online.
- Make sure your children know that you are safe

and approachable; remind them that they can tell you if something happens online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable, without being told off or punished.

You can find more advice about talking to you child about online safety from CEOP:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/having-a-conversation-with-your-child/

Setting boundaries:

Much like the 'real world', parents need to set boundaries for children online; this provides them with a clear understanding of the limits, expectations and consequences of their behaviour.

- Agree as a family, how the internet and technology will be used in your home; encourage children to use the online safety messages they learn in school and adapt these into your own family rules.
- Discuss online boundaries too; if your child loves to socialise online, talk to them about what is and isn't appropriate to share with their friends online.
- Remember to role-model positive behaviour online; consider asking your child's permission before posting photos of them on social media this Christmas and empower them to have control over their 'digital reputation'.

Take a look at the family agreement template available from Childnet International for some ideas:

www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation

Make informed choices:

It is vital that we fully understand the capabilities and make informed decisions about new games, apps and devices, before giving them to children as a gift.

- Do your research; ask the shop about pre-installed apps or tools and check whether the device or game has an online component, which allows them to connect with others online.
- Always check the PEGI age rating and descriptors on games before buying them for your child and carefully consider whether the content is appropriate for them.
- Familiarise yourself with the privacy, safety and security tools on new devices; ensure you are in a position to teach your child how to make their accounts private and how to block and report other people online.

Use the parent guides and shopper's checklists from UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology

Filters and Parental Controls:

Children can accidentally or deliberately be exposed to illegal, unwanted or unpleasant content online, but there are some simple steps you can take at home to help minimise this risk.

- Make sure you install anti-virus software, filters and parental controls on your child's device before giving it to them.
- Ensure that you are role-modelling good behaviour by using strong passwords yourself; make them difficult to guess and don't share them with your children.
- Remember that blocks and filters are not 100% effective and you can't rely on them alone to protect your children, so remind them to tell you if they see something upsetting online.

Take a look at the interactive guide to parental controls available from Internet Matters:

www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/interactive-guide/



Safeguarding Update

Christmas 2024 - 2025



USEFUL ACRONYMS & VOCABULARY ABOUT SAFEGUARDING

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead

Early Help: "providing Early Help support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years".

TAC: Team Around a Child (part of Early Help)

TAF: Team Around the Family (part of Early Help)

CP: Child Protection

CIIN: Child in Need

DV: Domestic Violence

PREVENT: Part of the PREVENT Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn into extremism

Channel: A programme that provides support to people identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

LADO: Local Authority Designated Officer who deals with position of trust safeguarding issues

GBV: Gender based violence is directed at an individual based on his or her biological sex or gender identity

County Lines: County Lines is when illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries usually by children/vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs.

CME: Children Missing Education



Knowing how to talk to your child about their mental health, or recognising the signs that they might be struggling, can be really hard. It is natural for children to feel stressed or anxious about the challenges that come with going to school, sometimes. Whilst these experiences can be very difficult, they're different from longer term anxiety, which affect how a child feels every day. It can help to think about what's normal for your child and if you've noticed signs that they've been behaving differently recently.

Signs of anxiety in children can include:

- becoming socially withdrawn
- feeling nervous or 'on edge' a lot of the time
- suffering panic attacks
- feeling tearful, upset or angry
- trouble sleeping and changes in eating habits.

Ways to help a child who's struggling include:

- Letting them know you're there for them
- Being patient and staying calm even if their behaviour upsets you
- Recognising that their feelings are valid and that it's okay for them to feel this way
- Thinking of healthy ways to cope together, like going for a walk or breathing exercises
- Encouraging them to talk to a trusted adult at their school
- Take care of yourself - try not to blame yourself for what's happening

<https://www.mindworks-surrey.org/>



We Are Citizens Advice - the people's champion. We give people the knowledge and confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are, and whatever their problem.

We are here to help everyone who needs it with practical advice you can really trust. Our national charity and network of local charities offer confidential advice online, over the phone, and in person, for free.

Advice includes:

- Cost of living
- Paying for bills
- Clearing debts
- Understanding your legal obligations:
 - Housing
 - Family rights
 - Money, debts and loans
- Understanding benefit schemes

