

# St Paul's C of E Primary School



## Safeguarding Newsletter- Issue 2- December 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to our second safeguarding newsletter! In this update, we would like to share with you the feedback from our pupil and parent safeguarding questionnaire, as well as highlighting specific safeguarding issues. You will also notice that we have a new member of staff to welcome onto our team, Mrs D'Avanzo.

As we approach Christmas, we are aware that this time of year might be particularly challenging for some of our children and families. This may be as a result of finances, childcare concerns over the holidays, illness, or it may be the first Christmas without a loved one. Please know that we are here to support in anyway we can. We can provide food parcels, support groups, or simply a listening ear. If you need us, please get in touch.

Kind Regards,

*Mrs S Bagley* (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

### **The Safeguarding Team**

#### **Mrs Sara Bagley- Designated Safeguarding Lead**



#### **Mrs Jane Millington-Jones- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead**



**Mrs Emma Disley- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead**



**Mrs Ruth D'Avanzo- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead**



**Mr Tim Pitcher- Safeguarding Governor**



**Children's Safeguarding Questionnaire Feedback**

380 children were present on the day of the safeguarding questionnaire, the full report, including data and action points can be found on our school website. Overall, we are extremely pleased that our children enjoy school, feel safe, can talk to staff members if they are worried, feel that bullying is addressed and not tolerated and encourages all children to make good progress. Some of the lovely comments the children made are:

*I love spending time with my teacher. I love everything about my school. I love this school because they're kind. I like having a church. We're good at being friends. Everyone is respectful. We can tell our grown-ups everything. There are no mean teachers. The teachers don't accept bullying. I like learning new things. We have a foodbank. We like being on the volunteer programme. Our school is beautiful.*

We take the pupils' voice seriously, and as always, try to act upon any suggestions of how we can even further improve our school.

Our children said:

*We don't always feel included in group activities*

We will...

- All class teachers were asked to think about ways in which we can promote team work to ensure that all children felt included.

- Teachers and staff members are supporting individual children who need extra support to develop and maintain friendships. We will continue to work with the children to improve this.

Our children said:

9% of our children said that behaviour could be better

We will...

- be creating a working party, including children, to review our behaviour policy.
- ensure behaviour assemblies will occur more often to help children understand acceptable behaviours.

Our children said:

We would like more things to play with at playtime/lunchtime

We will...

- We have employed further staff to instigate play and games with the children.
- We have invested money into playground equipment
- Children have been trained as play leaders
- New playground lines will make playtimes more varied and fun
- Buddy benches have been installed

### **Parent Safeguarding Questionnaire Feedback**

Thank you to all that managed to complete the parent safeguarding questionnaire. We are always appreciative of feedback and ideas of how to continually improve our safeguarding offer.

The full report can be found on our school website. We value all of the feedback we are given. The positive comments are always lovely to hear and shows us what a supportive community we have. Suggestions for improvement are also valued, as this enables us to continually review our practice and strive to provide the best possible care and education for our children.

### **Areas to Celebrate**

Parents reported that their children are happy at school and felt safe, they also shared that children are taught how to keep safe in school. Parents know who to contact if they have a concern and the majority of parents feel that any concerns are addressed and managed appropriately and swiftly. Parents are confident to raise concerns/complaints with the school.

We have invested heavily into our school this year, including a full refurbishment of the hall, so we are pleased that parents feel our school is clean and well resourced.

Parents report that they are confident with the school's policies and procedures when taking children on a school trip and feel that their child is safe.

Parents have said that St Paul's is an excellent school and has excellent staff. Children and parents are happy with all aspects of school life.

### **Areas to Further Develop**

You said...

5 of the parents/carers who responded did not feel that we have offered the opportunity to learn about E-Safety and how to help keep their child safe when using the internet.

We will...

- provide an E-Safety workshop for parents in the new year.
- Signpost our website content more regularly on our newsletter.
- 6x a year, the safeguarding newsletter will continue to contain updates of online safety for parents and carers.

You said...

5 of the responses from parents and carers expressed that they do not feel that bullying is dealt with effectively.

We will...

- Ensure that parents and carers feel as confident as our children, that bullying is dealt with effectively (98% of children felt that bullying was dealt with effectively), by involving our parents and carers in the review of our behaviour policy.
- If, in a parent meeting, bullying is cited, we will ensure that actions are put in place and a review meeting with a senior leadership team member, happens within 6 weeks to discuss the progress made.

**UK Chief Medical Officers' advice for parents and carers on Children and Young People's screen and social media use**

Technology can be a wonderful thing but too much time sitting down or using mobile devices can get in the way of important, healthy activities. Here are some tips for balancing screen use with healthy living.

<b>Sleep matters</b> Getting enough, good quality sleep is very important. Leave phones outside the bedroom when it is bedtime.		<b>Sharing sensibly</b> Talk about sharing photos and information online and how photos and words are sometimes manipulated. Parents and carers should never assume that children are happy for their photos to be shared. For everyone – when in doubt, don't upload!	
<b>Education matters</b> Make sure you and your children are aware of, and abide by, their school's policy on screen time.		<b>Keep moving!</b> Everyone should take a break after a couple of hours sitting or lying down using a screen. It's good to get up and move about a bit. #sitlessmovemore	
<b>Safety when out and about</b> Advise children to put their screens away while crossing the road or doing an activity that needs their full attention.		<b>Talking helps</b> Talk with children about using screens and what they are watching. A change in behaviour can be a sign they are distressed – make sure they know they can always speak to you or another responsible adult if they feel uncomfortable with screen or social media use.	
<b>Family time together</b> Screen-free meal times are a good idea – you can enjoy face-to-face conversation, with adults giving their full attention to children.		<b>Use helpful phone features</b> Some devices and platforms have special features – try using these features to keep track of how much time you (and with their permission, your children) spend looking at screens or on social media.	

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or any other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

FGM is sometimes known as 'female genital cutting' or female circumcision. It's often performed by someone with no medical training, using instruments such as knives, scalpels, scissors, glass or razor blades. Children are rarely given anaesthetic or antiseptic treatment and are often forcibly restrained. It's used to control female sexuality and can cause long-lasting damage to physical and emotional health.

The World Health Organisation estimates that three million girls undergo some form of the procedure every year in Africa alone. It is practised in 28 countries in Africa and some in the Middle East and Asia.

FGM is considered to be child abuse in the UK and is a violation of the child's right to life, their bodily integrity as well as of their right to health.

FGM is illegal in the UK. It is also an offence for UK nationals or permanent UK residents to carry out FGM abroad or to assist the carrying out of FGM abroad.

If you are concerned that a child may be at risk of FGM you can call the NSPCC FGM helpline on 0800 028 3550 for more information or email them at [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk)

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 apps that we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# ▶ YOUTUBE ▶

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

### CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

### SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

### HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

### TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

### SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.



### TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.



### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.



### CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.



### MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.



### LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!



### Meet Our Expert

Clare 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.



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