

(Spring Addition: February 2024)

Safeguarding Newsletter



If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or a family, please contact us:

OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFEGUARDING - MISS BECK, HEADTEACHER

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL) - MISS JOSEPH, DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (Deputy DSL)
MRS EGAN, ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER & INCLUSION LEADER

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION GOVERNOR - MRS MICHELLE RATTIGAN

FGM HELPLINE 0800 028 355 **PREVENT HELPLINE 020 7340 7264**

Brent Local Safeguarding Children Board 020 8937 4300



Miss Beck

Miss Joseph

Mrs Egan

Following Jesus' footsteps and inspired by St. Robert Southwell we work hard, aim high and treat everyone with honesty and gentleness.



St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School

Aiming for Excellence - Being the Best We Can Be

Welcome to the first edition of our parent safeguarding newsletter. This newsletter is designed to support parents and carers in their understanding of safeguarding issues that may affect their child, themselves or members of the local community. At St. Robert Southwell we promote a culture of vigilance, we do this by teaching and reminding our children how to keep themselves safe. We teach them to speak out and tell them what to do if they come across a situation that makes them feel unsafe. Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. ***Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility.***

Below are some initiatives that we adopt at St. Robert Southwell primary school to support different aspects of keeping children safe.

Safer Internet Day (February, 6th February) has a singular goal: to make the online world safer for children and young people.

**Safer
Internet
Day 2024** | **Tuesday
6 February**

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

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

SMART tips based on resources from www.thinkuknow.co.uk

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Weekly app messages regarding online safety from the National Online College:

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about — SHARING PHOTOS ONLINE

School is often a time chock-full of milestones for your child, and you may well be eager to share their accomplishments with the world. In today's digital age, sharing images of such precious moments on social media is commonplace, and – while that's a lovely thing to do – it does come with some risks attached. Our guide can help parents and carers to consider the potential dangers and make informed choices about safely sharing photos of their children online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INVASIONS OF PRIVACY

Even with the right settings in place, absolutely nothing online is 100% private. Anyone who can view your photos could take screenshots and potentially share them elsewhere. Privacy settings are still important, though, so it's always wise to ensure your social media accounts have them set up; just bear in mind that you can't *completely* control what happens to anything once it's gone online.

REVEALING PERSONAL DETAILS

Small details in photos can often reveal personal information. Backgrounds can give clues to where you live, for example, while school logos on uniforms, sports kits, or bags could help someone identify which school your child attends. With interactive maps and reverse image searches commonplace online, information like this could easily be misused by an individual with malicious intentions.

MISUSE OF IMAGES

Once something's been shared online, it's almost impossible to get it deleted. Photos can show up in search engine results and be downloaded, manipulated, and shared without consent. There's the potential for someone's images to be used for advertising purposes (which in many cases, isn't illegal) or even more inappropriate reasons, such as cyber-bullying or serious forms of exploitation.

ONLINE GROOMING

Pictures that convey details about your child's interests, activities, or daily routines could arm an online predator with the kind of information they can deploy to gain a child's trust. They might use this knowledge to pretend to be the same age as the child or to have a shared hobby. Essentially, the more a predator knows about a young person, the easier it is for them to invent some 'common ground'.

PRESSURE TO PLEASE

When their parents or carers share notable moments and accomplishments in a child's life on social media, some children may begin to feel an expectation to *always* meet certain standards, to achieve things, or to behave in ways that are "worth sharing". Knowing that other people (even friends and family) can see these posts on social media might also add to the pressure they're feeling internally.

IMPACT ON DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Every photo of a child posted online contributes to their digital footprint. Young people's lives have never been so closely and publicly documented as they are now, and this permanent online presence could affect a child's future opportunities or the choices they make as they grow up – in addition to influencing how they see themselves and, consequently, their emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SETTINGS REGULARLY

Make sure your social media's secure in terms of who can view your content or see your location (only family and trusted friends, for example). Privacy settings aren't totally foolproof, but they do make it tougher for strangers to access your pics. Reviewing your settings regularly is also a good starting point for conversations with your child about managing their own social accounts when they're older.

CHECK YOUR PHOTOS

Photos of your child shouldn't provide any clues to where they live or go to school: even a house number, street name, or car number plate could be a giveaway. Cover up or blur it out, or use a photo that you really don't want to have a little bit of a watermark or low-res version, which can help to discourage misuse as those images are less appealing to download or reproduce.

CONSIDER OTHER CHILDREN

When taking a group photo, make sure you get parents' or carers' permission to share it on social media. There may be an important safeguarding reason for them not wanting their child's photo posted publicly online, or it might simply not tally with their personal beliefs or cultural background. A quick conversation in advance, just to make sure, is usually hugely appreciated.

THINK AHEAD

Try to consider the longer-term implications of what you post. Would you be happy with that photo being online in 10 years' time? Would your child still be OK with the image when they're older? Once your child is mature enough, you could ask for their consent before posting; it respects their privacy, fosters trust and understanding, and helps them to start thinking about their own online life.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with more than 30 years' experience working with children, families, and adults in education, local authority, and mental health settings, both in the UK and internationally. She has developed online safety training for local authorities and foster care agencies across Britain and is the online safety expert for FosterWiki.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



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 @nationalonlinesafety



 @national_online_safety

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Attendance

The careful monitoring of attendance is key to improving the overall performance of pupil outcomes, but it is equally important in keeping children safe. Children who attend school regularly establish good patterns for their future lives. Knowing who is absent and why, is fundamental to effective safeguarding. Non-Attendance to school or unauthorised attendance, can result in safeguarding action. This is because persistent absenteeism and sudden changes in patterns of attendance and pupil behaviour, are a key indication that something is wrong and could lead to sudden extended absences. As a school, we have a duty of care to take action. We therefore scrutinise pupil absence, investigate the reasons for this and ensure our procedures are followed



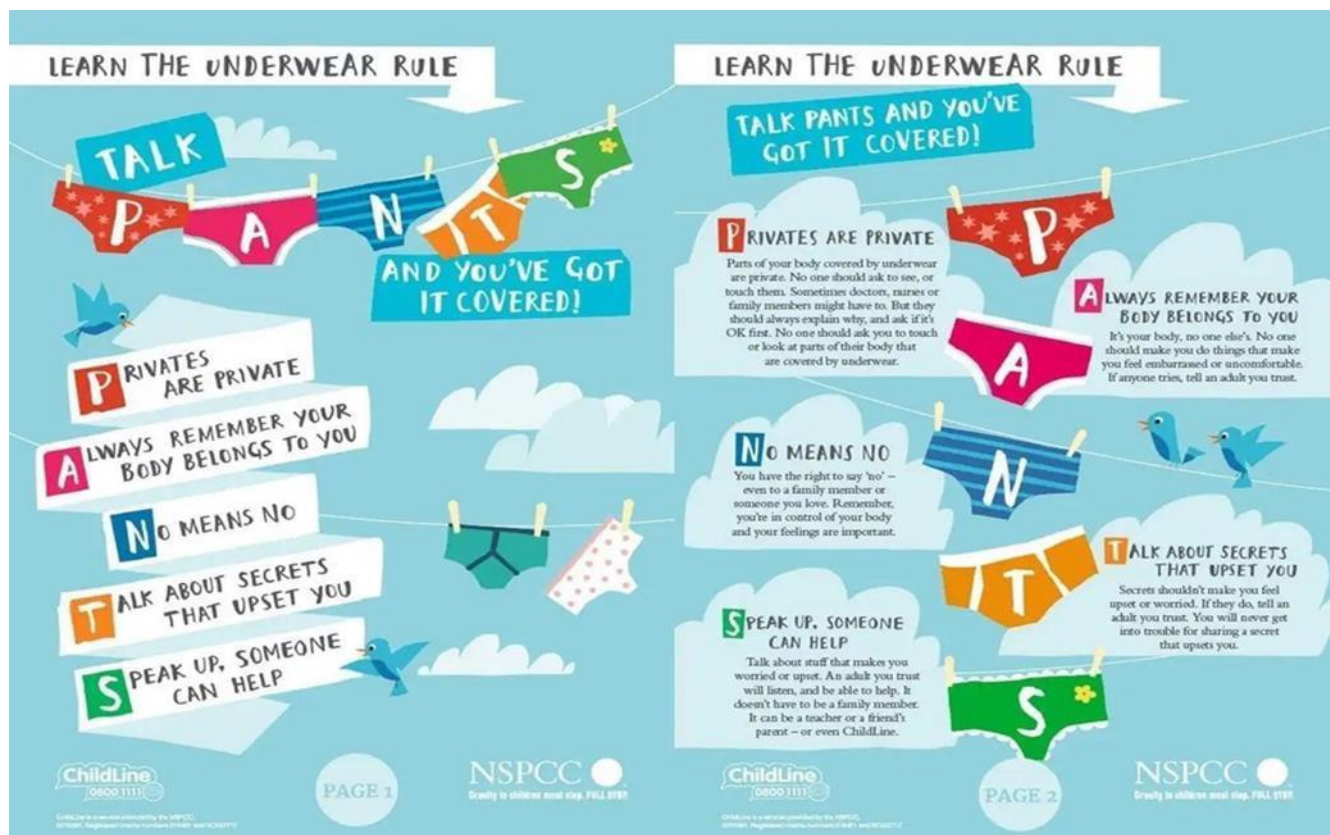
NSPCC PANTS: Always remember your body belongs to you

If someone asks to see, or tries to touch you, underneath your underwear, say 'NO' – and tell someone you trust and like to speak to. The NSPCC helps us to teach the children that privates are privates and that nobody should ask to see or touch any areas covered by underwear. Sometimes a family member, nurse or doctor may have to but this should be explained why. We teach children that No means no and if they are concerned about the underwear rule or feel unsafe they should speak out.

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Click on the red Pantosarus to watch the **Pantosarus** video: <https://youtu.be/SzbMEVYiyg>



NSPCC Speak Out & Stay Safe:



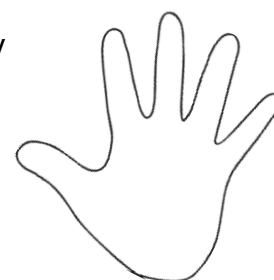
We use Speak out & Stay Safe to encourage the children to

speak out if they have a problem or are being hurt, we use NSPCC resources during termly safeguarding discussions. Click the link to find out more about it: <https://youtu.be/jolOr4E-9PQ>

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

Five trusted Adults

A Trusted Adult is someone who children can turn to if they're worried or concerned. The concept of trust is discussed and how children can identify trustworthy people in their lives. Examples of trusted adults, charities and organisations children can turn too are discussed. We ask the children to write the name of a person that they trust along each of the fingers. These can be people who listen to them, believe them and do things to help them.



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Useful websites for parents:

<http://www.childline.org.uk/>



CEOP - Child Exploitation & Online Protection

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

NSPCC – 0808 8005000

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/report/>

Brent Family Front Door – 0208 937 4300 or online reporting form

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/keeping-childrensafe#Reportchildabuse>

If you feel that you or a child is in immediate danger, please call 999 immediately.

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