



St Robert Southwell School Safeguarding Newsletter



No. 1– October 2024

Aiming for Excellence - Being the Best We Can Be

Wellbeing & Mental Health Vision

To support everyone's wellbeing and mental health, so that they can be the 'Best they can Be', are happy together, resilient, ready to learn and succeed.

Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

Vision: Aiming for Excellence:

Being The Best We Can Be.

For your information, the safeguarding lead with overall responsibility for safeguarding is:

MISS BECK, Headteacher

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

MISS JOSEPH, Deputy Headteacher

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

MRS EGAN, Assistant Headteacher & Inclusion manager

Safeguarding and Child Protection Governor

MRS MICHELLE RATTIGAN

PLEASE REQUEST TO SEE THEM IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS

FGM HELPLINE 0800 028 3550

PREVENT HELPLINE 020 7340 7264



Miss Beck



Miss Joseph



Mrs Egan

Safeguarding Policy Update

Our safeguarding handbook is reviewed annually to ensure it meets current legislation and best practices. This year, we have made update changes to reflect new guideline set in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024. A copy of the handbook is available on the school website and the Parent App.

Training for Staff

All staff members participate in regular safeguarding training to stay informed about potential risks and the best practices for keeping children safe. Our latest training focused on recognising signs of abuse (including online abuse), including how to report concerns and support children effectively. At the start of term, staff also received update training on the Prevent strategy.

Chosen Adults

In school, your child has discussed and chosen who their five chosen adults are. These are five people in school and at home that your child feels they can talk to, should the need arise, for any reason. Please talk to your child about speaking to their chosen adult in school if anything is worrying them.

Walking to and from school independently

If your child is in Year 5 or 6 and you decide that they are ready to walk to or from school alone, please complete the consent form sent on the app. Once the form has been received, your child will have a brief interview with Miss Joseph, to determine if school think that your child is ready to walk home independently. Your child will be asked some of the following questions:

- What is your address?
- What is your route home?
- How will you be travelling?
- How do you cross a road safely?
- If you are going home to an empty house, what are the house rules? E.g. are you allowed to cook?

Mobile Phones

Children should not have a mobile phone in school. If your child is in Year 5 & 6, and has permission to walk to or from school independently you will need to hire a mobile phone locker, if you chose to give your child a mobile phone. Please complete the consent form sent on the app. The mobile phone should be turned off on arrival to school and stored in the mobile phone locker throughout the day.

Online safety

As children are increasingly engaging with digital technology, it's vital to have open conversations about online safety. We encourage parents to:

Discuss online activities: Regularly check what apps and games your child is using. Understanding their online world helps foster open communication.

Set boundaries: Establish rules for screen time and social media use to help keep children safe.

Report concerns: If you notice anything inappropriate or concerning online, please report it to us.

Have you considered the following?

Do you have age restriction filters on the internet in your home?

Do you limit your child's screen time?

Do you check the search history on the device that your child uses?

Does your child need parental approval to download an app?

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At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

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 content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECTING 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 message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

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 it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which 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 cause physical or emotional harm to children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTube users by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their 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 a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by 'preschool' (4 and under), 'younger' (ages 5 to 8) and 'older' (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

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 a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you're like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.





The National College

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Release date: 28.01.2023 Last reviewed: 31.05.2024

Remember, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you ever have concerns about a child's welfare, contact our designated safeguarding lead, Kara Joseph, or any other member of our safeguarding team. Alternatively please email safeguarding@robsouth.org We are here to listen and support.

Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our school community safe. Together, we can ensure a nurturing environment for our children to thrive.

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