PUTTERIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Safeguarding Newsletter

Spring 2, 2024

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:

The Safeguarding Team oversee and co-ordinate 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.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs V Prowle

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Mr C Pickard
Miss N Chinnery
Mrs L Bright

School Safeguarding Governors:

Mr L Donohoe

All can be contacted via the office or by telephone on:
01582 728262

For a copy of our school's Child Protection Policy, please visit the Safeguarding page on our school website:

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

This half-term should see a return to longer days and, with them, better weather and more opportunities to get out and about – always good news for our mental health and wellbeing! We have already been busy in school this week with our annual Online Safety Day and you should have received a link to a parent virtual workshop regarding how you can support children at home to navigate this exciting but potentially dangerous world, including the new risks posed by AI Deep Fakes.

Within this newsletter I have also provided some information about the various sessions that took place as well as some interesting statistics about what our children are getting up to online – in a number of ways it is quite worrying.

Mrs V Prowle (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Useful Safeguarding Acronyms and Vocabulary

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead
MASH: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
CP: Child Protection
CiN: Child in Need
CEOP: Child Exploitation and On-Line Protection Centre
KCSIE: Keeping Children Safe in Education
PREVENT: Part of the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn in to extremism
CAMHs: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
SEND: Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Report any concerns if you suspect a child is being abused or is in danger of being abused, please contact a Designated Safeguarding Lead, or any member of staff. You can also contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on:

☎: 01582 547653

Out of Hours service: 0300 300 8123

💻 MASH@luton.gov.uk

Or make an online referral via the website:
https://directory.luton.gov.uk/kb5/luton/directory/service.page?id=aJZE_OSgZfQ

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

Types of Child Abuse

Physical | Sexual | Emotional | Neglect

Online Safety

Gaming Considerations

86% of British parents and carers ignore the age ratings on games compared with 23% ignoring those on films.

This is a worrying statistic considering that young people are immersed in the content when playing a game and are often not monitored. The PEGI rating on a game does not refer to the level of difficulty or skill within the game, rather it is an indicator of the content. Many of these games expose children to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism.

A number of our children, including those in KS1 and EYFS continue to tell us that they regularly play **Grand Theft Auto** and/or **Call of Duty**, both of which carry a PEGI rating of 18. Neither of these games is suitable for __any__ primary age child.

The PEGI symbols below are used as a guide to what may be encountered within a game and there is lots of information on their website among others to help you decide whether or not it is appropriate for your child.

Online Safety Day – Tues 27th February

As you know, on Tuesday 27th February the children from Y1 to Y6 took part in workshops throughout the day to further their understanding of how to keep themselves safe online and this was followed up by a staff training session after school which brought the adults in school up-to-date with the latest trends in young people's Internet use along with the potential risks and pitfalls that go along with these and ways to support our children as they learn to live in a virtual world. In particular we were shown a very powerful video which made us all stop and think about the risks now posed by AI technology and Deep Fakes, the link to which I have provided here and I would urge you all to take a look.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4WZ_k0vUDM

Lots of parents are also logging on to the free recorded session provided by ECP which has been shared on ParentMail and can also be found on the website.

For more information on keeping your children safe online, please see the new and improved e-safety pages on our website where there is lots of information and further links to websites that can support you at home, including useful 'What Parents Need to Know' factsheets on all things gaming and social media.

https://www.putteridgeprimaryschool.org.uk/page/onlinesafety

https://www.kidsonlineworld.com/ is also a fantastic source of advice, information and support

Good to know – reminders of the minimum age for popular apps

Facebook (minimum age 13) – lets users create their own profiles, share status updates, pictures, videos and chat with other users and also has a messenger app.

Instagram (minimum age 13) – allows users to alter photos, upload them and share to other social networking sites. Photos and videos can be sent directly to specific users.

Snapchat (minimum age 13) – a photo-sharing app where users can send photos or videos to their friends. These will display on screen for up to ten seconds before being deleted, although it is possible to take screenshots of messages and download other apps designed to capture and save Snapchat content.

TikTok (minimum age 13) – TikTok users can make their own short videos on the mobile app and often like to have music accompany these. The users have creative control over the videos. Other TikTok users can 'react' to videos they see by filming their responses alongside the original video, or 'duet' by making a video alongside another video.

X [was Twitter] (minimum age 13) – a social network that lets users send and read messages limited to 280 characters.

WhatsApp (minimum age 16) – a free-of-charge, real-time messaging service. Users can share images and videos, take part in 'group chats' and share locations. As it's based on knowing the user's phone number, you can only message users if you already have this information.
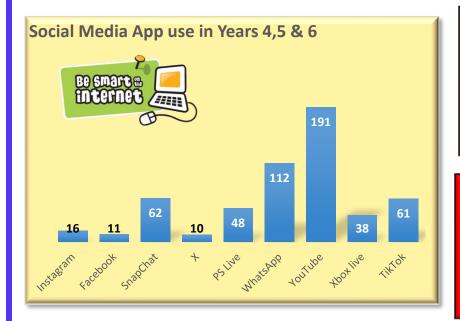
YouTube (minimum age 16) – allows users to watch, create and comment on videos. The dislike button can create insecurities with content posted even if comments are turned off for the video.

CLICK CEOP
Internet Safety

ONLINE SAFETY – PUPIL VOICE

Prior to the online safety day, I asked children to take part in an anonymous survey to find out more about their Internet habits and some of the results were quite striking. You will have received the full results from the survey in a separate email but I wanted to highlight some worrying aspects here too, considering the minimum age recommendations above:

Social Media App use in Years 4,5 & 6

Be smart on the internet

App	Value
Instagram	16
Facebook	11
SnapChat	62
X	10
PS Live	48
WhatsApp	112
YouTube	191
Xbox live	38
TikTok	61

When asked whether they had ever met up with someone they'd initially got to know online, **20%** of the children said they had.

38% of KS1 and 59% of KS2 children who responded said they had seen something online that made them feel uncomfortable.