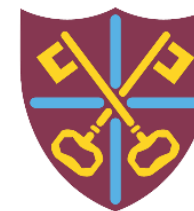


St Peter's Catholic Primary School

Safeguarding & Child Protection Newsletter

Issue 6: March 2024



At St. Peter's

At St. Peter's, we believe that every child matters and everything we do has each and every child at heart. Your child's wellbeing, safety, achievement and their happiness underpins every decision that we make and determines how we work. Often when safeguarding is talked about the assumption is that it is just child protection - when a child is suffering harm, or is in danger from suffering harm.

However, safeguarding is much broader than this and takes into account a very wide range of areas.

St. Peter's Safeguarding Team will publish a regular newsletter that will give you current advice and information about issues that will hopefully keep all of our children safe in school and at home.

Who is responsible for Safeguarding?

Everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe. We are dedicated to working with the wider community, including the parish community and our families to tackle any safeguarding concerns and keep all children safe.

Who is St. Peter's Safeguarding Team?

- Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mrs Hall (Deputy Head teacher)
- Deputy designated Safeguarding Lead -Mrs Kelly (Headteacher)
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mrs Tucker (SENCO)
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mrs McWilliams (KS2 Phase Lead)
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead– Mrs Walsh (Family Support Worker)
- Designated Safeguarding Governor– Mrs Bevan

Posters displaying this information are placed around school as a reminder for adults and children of who to go to if there are any concerns.

What is the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)?

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Deputy Designated Safeguard Leads have a crucial role in taking responsibility for child protection issues in school. The DSL must be a senior member of the school's leadership team. DSL's and DDSL's are trained to take on this role and that training is updated every two years with additional training and conferences in between. The DSL and DDSL have many responsibilities including working with staff and agencies involved in safeguarding children, working with parents and families, giving advice to staff, training staff, managing referrals from staff and investigating concerns passing them onto the correct body as necessary, and managing the records of safeguarding and Child Protection concerns.

Spotlight on:

County lines and CCE

County lines is when gangs and organised crime groups exploit children to transport and sell drugs, normally between big cities where the exploiters are based to smaller towns, sometimes across county boundaries but also locally and within the borough. The children have dedicated mobile phone 'lines' for taking orders for drugs; children are used as they are less likely to be stopped by police, allowing adult dealers to avoid the risk of arrest. County lines is a form of criminal exploitation; this occurs where a person or a group of people takes advantage of their contact with and influence over a young person to coerce or manipulate them into carrying out a criminal act. Children as young as 6 are known to have been targeted by gangs for this purpose. Young people may be recruited for county lines and other forms of criminal exploitation by a process of grooming: At the targeting stage, the exploiter befriends the young person and gains their trust. Young people may also be recruited through social media and/or through their peer group. Some parents of young people who have been exploited through county lines involvement have reported that they went through a sudden change in behaviour.

Possible indicators of involvement include:

- Unexplained money, clothes or gifts
- Frequent, unexplained phone calls
- New friendship circle that involves older children or adults
- Not attending school
- Carrying weapons

Spotlight on:

Prevent strategy

Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extremist causes

The Prevent Strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including the extreme far-right wing and extreme Islamist groups.

- Educate Against Hate Government advice and trusted resources for parents to safeguard children from radicalisation, build resilience to all types of extremism and promote shared values

How does the Prevent strategy apply to schools and parents?

From July 2015 all schools have a duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism.

This means we have a responsibility to protect children from extremist and violent views the same way we protect them from drugs or gang violence.

The Prevent strategy is not just about discussing extremism itself, which may not be appropriate for younger children. However, it is about teaching children values such as tolerance and mutual respect.

Importantly, we can provide a safe place for pupils to discuss any issues so they better understand how to protect themselves.

Children are spending more time than ever on social media and gaming platforms so it is no surprise that online grooming by extremists is on the rise. Young people are especially being targeted by groups and individuals promoting violence and hatred.

Helping your child be digitally savvy and knowing the signs of radicalisation will help keep them safe and protect them from potential risks.

Netmums have partnered with Counter Terrorism Policing to highlight their safeguarding website, ACT Early, which is for parents, friends and families who are concerned about loved ones at risk of radicalisation. <https://www.netmums.com/act-early>

You want your child to be happy and healthy and that means you already know the places you can get help and advice if they're not well or are struggling at school. Support is also there if you're worried your child is being radicalised or exploited by extremists. <https://actearly.uk/>

If you are thinking about social media for your child, what should you consider and how can you help and support them?

What are the risks?

- **Inappropriate content.** Anybody can post and share videos, pictures, or ideas on social media. This means children may see things they don't want to, including sexual or violent content.
- **Inappropriate behaviour.** Children, like adults, can feel more confident when they are online as they feel protected by the screen. This can result in them, or their friends, saying or doing something they'd be less likely to do offline, including oversharing.
- **Over-sharing.** Social media lets people share information about who they are and what they like doing – with lots of different people. It's easy to share things online that we wouldn't face-to-face. Once something has been shared, you can never be sure who has seen it, saved it, or shared it.

- **Making friends with people they don't know.** Chatting and meeting new people is the main reason that most social media services exist. This opens up the opportunities for adults to contact children online. It's also easy to set up fake profiles, and some adults may even pretend to be children when they're much older. This makes it hard to tell the difference between someone who's genuine and fake. Some people online can also put pressure on children or manipulate them into doing something they don't want to do.

Is your child ready?

The age of your child as well as their developmental stage and maturity can affect their ability to have a safe and positive experience of social media.

Minimum age requirements

Most of the popular social media services require users to be at least 13 years of age before they can register, although some sites are created especially for children under 13 (see Internet Matters' [Social networks made for children](#)).

The age requirements are there because of data protection laws. Online services are not allowed to collect or store children's personal information if they are under the age of 13. Data protection laws also say that only children aged 13 and over can sign up to online services without parental permission.

Following the age restrictions sets a good example for your child. Although the age requirement doesn't always mean the site is inappropriate for children to use, it's a good indication, especially for younger children.

Steps to take to help your child stay safe online

- Have an ongoing conversation: Continue to talk about the apps, games and sites they like to use, and what they like and don't like and any concerns about being online. Discuss with them when to unfollow, block or report. For help starting this conversation, follow the link:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/having-an-open-and-honest-conversation-about-online-safety-5-questions-for-parents>

- Make sure they know where to go for support: Remind your child they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset.

Remind them that they won't be in trouble at that you are there to help.

For a breakdown of report services, visit:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/report-issue/> Useful online safety websites for parents: National Online Safety – safety guides on ALL aspects of internet use

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/> Internet Matters – wide range of online safety advice for parents to keep their children safe on -line. <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Useful contacts:

First Response:

To report any safeguarding concerns.

Young Minds:

supporting children and young people's mental health

Mind: adult mental health support and information

Refuge: domestic abuse support

Saneline: Emotional Support: 07984 967 708 (leave name and number and someone will call you back)

If you have any concerns or questions, please do let us know:

Mrs Hall deputy@stpeters-leatherhead.surrey.sch.uk