

St Peter's Catholic Primary School

Safeguarding & Child Protection Newsletter

Issue 8: December 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 Lafferty

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.

FIVE STEPS TO SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH POSSIBLE BULLYING

- 1 HAVE OPEN DIALOGUE**
Listen to your child, giving your full attention. Ask open ended questions such as 'Can you tell me what happened today?'
- 2 OBSERVE FOR SIGNS OF BULLYING**
Watch out for changes in behaviour such as reluctance to go to school, complaining of tummyache or headaches.
- 3 TEACH STRATEGIES TO MANAGE SITUATIONS**
Help your child rehearse responses for negative situations and urge them to seek an adult for assistance.
- 4 WORK WITH SCHOOL**
Document any specific incidents and share your early concerns to enable teachers to monitor in school.
- 5 EMPOWER YOUR CHILD**
Encourage them to participate in activities they enjoy and excel in so they feel confident, especially in school

4 ways to keep your child safe playing Roblox

1. Monitor their playtime: check what they are playing and who they are playing against. Understand the games.
2. Discuss online safety: explain the risks of strangers online and how they may not be who they say they are.
3. Set boundaries on games times and howmuch they can spend on in-game purchases.
4. Use the parental controls on the platform. You can do this through the settings once logged in.

Advice on new devices for Christmas

As the Christmas season approaches, many parents and caregivers will be considering getting children their first internet connected device. Whether it's a smartphone, a tablet, or a gaming console, it's important to set boundaries from the start to ensure healthy tech habits and safety. Take a moment to think about how your child currently uses technology and how you envisage them using the new device.

Practical advice: Before gifting your child a new device, take time to set it up with appropriate restrictions. This proactive step lets you establish necessary boundaries, such as screen time limits, content filters, and privacy settings, so that the device is ready for safe, responsible use from day one.

Allowing children unrestricted access to the internet can expose them to various risks that many parents may not initially be aware of. Here's why setting boundaries when your child first receives a device is important:

1. **Exposure to inappropriate content:** The internet contains content that may not be suitable for children, from graphic images to violent videos and adult websites.
2. **Cyberbullying:** Online platforms can sometimes become spaces for cyberbullying. Children with unrestricted access might be more vulnerable to encountering or participating in harmful behaviour.
3. **Privacy and online predators:** Children may not fully understand the importance of keeping personal information private, which can lead them to overshare details such as their name, location, or school. This information can be used by online predators, who often frequent online spaces where young people are active.
4. **Screen addiction and mental health:** Too much screen time, especially on social media or video platforms, can lead to issues like screen addiction, reduced attention span, and mental health struggles.
5. **Impact on sleep:** Unrestricted access often means children use devices late into the night, which can interfere with sleep and, in turn, affect their focus and performance in school. Creating limits on when and how long devices can be used helps ensure that tech use doesn't interfere with academics or health.

4 Essential Boundaries for Your Child's First Device

- 01 Passwords**
 - Establish shared passwords for device access and any mutually agreed-upon apps.
 - Avoid sharing passwords for app stores.
 - Utilise parental control apps to supervise and manage the device.
- 02 Device free activities**
 - Implement daily device limits, especially for gaming and app use.
 - Designate specific device use times and plan device free activities.
- 03 No devices in bedrooms**
 - Devices are not used or played with in bedrooms, only in communal areas of the house.
 - At night, devices are kept in a shared space, not in bedrooms.
- 04 Conduct**
 - The device is recognised as a privilege from the very beginning.
 - There are expectations for the child to use it in a considerate and kind manner.
 - Consistent consequences are applied if children fail to demonstrate positive behaviour whilst using it.

The_Enlightened_Parent

Gaming: important considerations for parents

1. **Addiction and time management:** Many games are designed to be incredibly engaging, encouraging players to continue playing to achieve new levels or collect rewards. Without proper boundaries, this can lead to excessive screen time, interfering with school responsibilities, chores, and other essential daily tasks.
2. **Impact on mental health:** Excessive gaming has been linked to heightened levels of stress, anxiety, and even depression, particularly when it becomes a primary coping mechanism for real-world challenges. Over time, this can affect self-esteem and emotional resilience.
3. **Social isolation:** While many games offer online interactions, too much gaming can sometimes replace face-to-face friendships and family time. Children may choose gaming over in-person socialising, leading to feelings of loneliness.
4. **Exposure to inappropriate content:** Numerous games feature violence, strong language, or mature themes. Even titles marketed for younger audiences can expose children to content that may not be suitable. Multiplayer games might also subject kids to negative behaviours from others, such as cyberbullying or inappropriate remarks.
5. **Sleep disruption and health issues:** Gaming late into the night can disrupt sleep patterns, resulting in fatigue, poor focus, and irritability. Prolonged periods of sitting can also impact physical health, leading to issues like eye strain, headaches, and a lack of exercise.



Twitch: How to make sure your children use it safely

Twitch is a popular live-streaming platform used by millions of children and young people, focused mainly on gaming but also featuring music, art, and talk shows. Here's what parents need to know:

Unfiltered content: Twitch streams are live, meaning content can be unpredictable and occasionally inappropriate.

Live chat: Viewers interact with streamers and other users in real-time, with some chats containing unkind or inappropriate content.

Community influence: Children can connect with streamers and online communities, which can influence behaviour and perspectives.

High time commitment: Streams can last for hours, making it easy for teens to spend excessive time on the platform.

Ensuring children's safety on Twitch

- Activate parental controls and safe mode: Enable Twitch's 'Safe Mode' and parental controls to filter out mature content, reducing the risk of exposure to inappropriate streams or language.
- Monitor and establish time limits: Keep track of the channels your child follows and set limits on their Twitch usage to prevent excessive screen time. Open discussions about safe online behaviour and their viewing choices can promote responsible engagement. Open discussions about safe online behaviour and their viewing choices can promote responsible engagement.

How can parents help children develop respect for others?

- 
1
Model respectful behaviour around them, treating others with kindness and patience
- 
2
Encourage children to express their views and feelings in a way that does not harm others
- 
3
Have open conversations about diversity and how to treat everyone equally
- 
4
Teach children the value of kindness through everyday actions such as sharing and using kind words

