BREDON
SCHOOL

Safeguarding Bulletin
Trinity 2024 ~ Issue 05

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to our newsletter from the Safeguarding Team at Bredon School. Our aim is to provide you with the latest support and advice which could affect you and your children's lives.

General Election 2024: What the Children and Young People's Sector Wants to See from the Next Government

Numerous charities backing children and youth have unveiled manifestos ahead of the upcoming general election, expressing their needs and concerns following years of public service budget cuts. These manifestos address issues such as the enduring impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the rising cost of living. With Prime Minister Rishi Sunak setting the election date for July 4, various organizations are calling for specific actions from the next government. These include improved speech and language development programs, enhanced youth work services, investment in social care, better access to sports and outdoor activities, and support for mental health services in schools, among other key areas of focus outlined by different charities and advocacy groups.

For further information, please click the link below:

General Election 2024: What the children and young people's sector wants to see from the next government

Ofcom's Proposed Measures to Improve Children's Online Safety

Ofcom, the UK's online safety regulator, has introduced a set of proposed measures aimed at enhancing children's safety on the internet. These measures, outlined under the Online Safety Act, require social media platforms and other online services to implement various safeguards to protect children from harmful content. Key measures include robust age verification, safer algorithms to filter out harmful content, and effective moderation systems. By implementing these measures, Ofcom aims to prevent children from accessing harmful content such as pornography and violent material, and to provide easier avenues for children to report and address harmful content. The consultation on these proposals is open until July 17, with the finalisation of the measures expected in the spring of the following year.

For further information, please click the link below:

Ofcom News Centre 2024

Whooping Cough Cases Continue to Rise

New data published on the 9th May 2024 by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shows cases of whooping cough continue to increase with 1,319 cases confirmed in March.

For further information, please click the link below:

Gov.uk

Flavoured Vapes May Produce Many Harmful Chemicals When E-liquids are Heated – New Research

Vaping, increasingly popular as an alternative to smoking, raises concerns about long-term health effects, especially among younger, non-smoking individuals attracted to flavoured e-cigarettes. A research project employing artificial intelligence (AI) aimed to predict chemical changes occurring during vaping, revealing the formation of hazardous compounds, particularly in fruit, candy, and dessert flavours. These findings underscore the need for tighter regulation, given the potential health risks posed by vaping. The study highlights the complexity of vaping chemistry and the variability in devices, emphasising the necessity for comprehensive regulations on ingredients and safety claims. Leveraging technology and AI can aid in understanding vaping's health implications and informing public policies to prevent history from repeating itself regarding misconceptions about safety.

For further information, please click the link below:

The Conversation - Flavoured Vapes

Bringing Safeguarding into the Digital Era

In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, ensuring the safety of children and young people goes beyond traditional notions of security. As we immerse ourselves deeper into the online realm, the boundaries between the virtual and physical worlds blur, necessitating a holistic approach to safeguarding. This bulletin delves into the integration of internet safety with overall safeguarding practices, highlighting the importance of understanding and addressing the hidden dangers lurking in the deep and dark web. Through awareness and proactive measures, we aim to protect the wellbeing of children and young people in the digital age.

Digital Safeguarding is Integral: Internet safety is no longer separate from safeguarding children. In today's digital era, online safety is synonymous with overall safeguarding.

Awareness of Hidden Dangers: Alongside mainstream internet usage, understanding the deep web and dark web is crucial. These hidden areas host criminal activities, impacting children's safety.

Understanding the Deep/Dark Web: The deep web contains unindexed pages inaccessible via search engines, while the dark web requires anonymizing software. Both facilitate illicit activities.

Risks of Dark Web Access: Accessing the dark web exposes users to illegal content and can facilitate trolling and child exploitation. It's essential to restrict children's access to such areas.

Normalcy of Sexting: Sexting among young people contributes to the circulation of indecent images on the dark web, underscoring the need for updated approaches to online safety.

Promotion of Safer Activities: Encouraging participation in code clubs rather than exploring the dark web provides a safer outlet for children's curiosity about technology.

Legitimate Uses of Dark Web: While associated with criminal activities, the dark web serves legitimate purposes like privacy protection. Understanding its complexities is essential for safeguarding efforts.

Educational Opportunities: Those interested in learning more about the dark web can attend conferences like "Glimpse: Into the Dark Web" for insights from experts in the field.

For further information, please click the link below:

Safeguarding and Child Protection Association

SAMARITANS

SHUSH
listening tips

Top tips for becoming a better listener

Samaritans wants to encourage people to listen to the really important things their friends, family and colleagues need to tell them, and to devote some time and attention to being better listeners.

S — **Show you care**
Focus on the other person, make eye contact, put away your phone.

H — **Have patience**
It may take time and several attempts before a person is ready to open up.

U — **Use open questions**
That need more than a yes/no answer, and follow up eg 'Tell me more'.

S — **Say it back**
To check you've understood, but don't interrupt or offer a solution.

H — **Have courage**
Don't be put off by a negative response and, most importantly, don't feel you have to fill a silence.

samaritans.org/tips

What Children & Young People Need to Know about
FREE SPEECH VS HATE SPEECH

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's *not* the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly: being respectful and inclusive to others. Whether online or offline, communication attacking or discriminating against groups or individuals (because of protected characteristics like race or religion) is hate speech, not free speech.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives ...

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – which displays prejudice against someone's identity. Derogatory, demonising and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes ...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's ideas were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin's theory today. Freely exchanging ideas promotes progress.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having *ours* challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote or decent working conditions – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Freedom of expression includes the right *not* to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal.

Targeting people or groups because of who they are – including but not limited to aspects such as race, sexuality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on those same attributes: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way.

Making up or repeating insults about a person or group because something about their identity is different to the person who's posting.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are.

Meet Our Expert

The Global Equality Collective is an online community for homes, schools and businesses, a collective of hundreds of subject matter experts in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisation behind the GEC app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.

GLOBAL EQUALITY COLLECTIVE

The National College®

NOS

National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

10 Ways You Can
SHARE KINDNESS ONLINE

Last year, around one in five young people aged 10–15 in England and Wales admitted experiencing online bullying: most commonly being insulted or sworn at, or having hurtful messages sent about them. To someone who's being bullied, the world can seem like a bleak, negative place – but just one kind word can be a ray of hope: a turning point that brightens their day and refreshes their perspective. That's why 'One Kind Word' is the theme of Anti-Bullying Week 2021. We're supporting this year's event by bringing you ten top tips for beating online bullying by replacing it with kindness.

1 PRAISE WHERE IT'S DUE

Sometimes a friend or relative might post online about something they're proud to have achieved: maybe an exam they've passed, a new skill they've learned or a task they've completed. Celebrate their hard work and determination by being kind enough to praise them for it publicly.

2 REACH OUT

It's not always easy to tell what kind of mood someone is in just from what they post online. Simply dropping somebody a message to say 'hi', to ask if they're OK or to tell them that you're thinking of them could totally make their day.

Hi...

3 RECOMMEND FUN THINGS

If there's something you enjoy doing online – perhaps you play a particular game, or you've found a really cool site – share it with someone you think will enjoy it. Even recommending a film or TV show you think they'll like can bring a little happiness to someone who really needs it.

4 OFFER TO HELP

Sometimes you might see a friend or family member posting a question online or asking for help with something they can't do themselves. Don't just ignore it – if you can help, get in touch. Something that's difficult for them might be no trouble for you!

AWESOME

5 POST POSITIVELY

Lots of people seem to go online purely to complain about things or be negative. Just because you're communicating online (and not face to face) doesn't mean you can't be positive, though! Post about things that make you happy and that you're thankful for. It could brighten someone else's day.

6 SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION

If somebody that you know has done something positive or shown kindness themselves, go online and thank them with a message or a post. Expressing your gratitude costs nothing and showing someone that you appreciate them will really make them feel good.

7 BE UNDERSTANDING

Showing empathy towards others is an act of online kindness which often gets overlooked. If you notice that someone you know is upset, drop them a message. Sometimes people just need someone else to listen to them and understand their situation.

8 SHARE INSPIRATIONAL POSTS

When you see something online that inspires you or makes you feel happy, share it with people you know. A spot-on quotation, a beautiful photo or an uplifting video can lift someone's spirits and help them to feel better about life.

9 THINK BEFORE COMMENTING

Thinking before we act can be just as important as acting in the first place. Taking a second to consider what you're saying in advance could stop you from posting something negative, hurtful or offensive – even if you don't mean to. It's better to post positively or not post at all.

10 LIKE, LOVE AND ENGAGE

If somebody posts something that you like on social media, don't just scroll past – take the time to like it, love it or leave an appreciative comment! Reacting positively to other people's posts might seem like a small gesture but could mean a lot to them.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with more than 10 years of experience in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

AI-generated Child Sexual Abuse Material

The Guardian has published an article on Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated child sexual abuse material (CSAM) looking at how AI image generators are regulated. The article analyses the risks associated with the technology and approaches to preventing AI-generated CSAM such as filtering generating images.

Read the article: Can AI image generators be policed to prevent explicit deepfakes of children?

Source: NSPCC, 2024

Child Sexual Abuse Online

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has published its annual report analysing the trends and data around child sexual abuse material online in 2023. Findings from reports to the IWF show: 275,652 webpages were confirmed as containing child sexual abuse imagery; there was a 25% increase in the number of images involving children aged 7-10 years old; and of the 275,652 webpages actioned during 2023, 92% were assessed as containing 'self-generated' imagery.

Read the news story: Under sixes manipulated into 'disturbing' sexual abuse while playing alone online as IWF says regulation can't wait

Read the report: IWF Annual Report 2023

See also on NSPCC Learning
> Protecting children from sexual abuse

Source: NSPCC, 2024

Best wishes,

Miss Charmain Eaton
Deputy Head (Pastoral and Safeguarding) & CCF Contingent Commander