



ETCHING HILL NEWS

27th January 2023

Issue 8 2022-23

Safeguarding and Child Protection Edition

This week in our worship we have been focusing on our Christian value of RESPONSIBILITY and it occurred to us that our biggest responsibility as teachers and as parents is to keep our children safe and protected. We have always tried to provide safeguarding updates periodically through our regular newsletters but felt that it warranted its own special edition.

At Etching Hill we work hard to ensure that Safeguarding isn't a tick box of things we do, but that there is a culture of safeguarding; at the heart of this is the absolute understanding that 'SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY'. When we say everyone, we really do mean everyone and this reaches beyond the classroom and the school day to you as parents, who will meet and see children at parties, play dates as part of your extended family or even pick up on something that your child might say about the life of another child. As adults that work with children we have regular training on how to support children, what to look for and what to do if we have concerns, we hope that this and future newsletters will help you as parents feel more informed.

If you have questions or would like to discuss anything related to this please do speak to me or email.

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding means:

- Protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- Preventing harm to children's health or development
- Ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- Acting to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes

Safeguarding relates to many areas including children's physical health and safety, mental health issues, attendance, managing medical conditions, internet safety, substance misuse, bullying, the dangers of radicalisation, child sexual exploitation, gang culture, FGM, neglect, domestic violence, forced marriages, sex and relationships education, British Values and road safety among other issues. It is our aim that our school curriculum gives children opportunities to explore many of these issues in a safe situation — through PSHE, SRE, Circle Time, dedicated topic time and as key learning points arise in subjects such as science so that we can equip our children with the knowledge, understanding and the right tools to make safe choices.

What is Child Protection?

Child protection is part of the safeguarding process. Child protection means: focusing on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes child protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child.



THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the schools safeguarding team.



Mrs Marie Smith—Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)



Mrs Alison Morganti
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)



Mrs Zoe Hasketh-Boston
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)



Mrs Joanne Hill
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (EYFS)



Mrs Cheryl Pope— Children's Champion & Mental Health Lead



Miss Beverley Smith
Family Liason Officer (FLO)

What we do at Etching Hill:

At Etching Hill, building positive relationships is at the core of everything we do, it is our aim that all children feel safe in school and have adults that they feel comfortable to go to. We encourage our children to be open about their experiences so that they know it is always safe to disclose concerns to a trusted adult. We aim to create an environment that teaches children how to behave respectfully towards each other, and how to respect personal and physical boundaries.

We believe that one of the best ways to safeguard children, is through equipping them with the knowledge and skills for how they can keep themselves safe. Safeguarding themes along with British Values are threaded through our curriculum and the enrichment opportunities we offer in school. Full details of how our broad curriculum supports this can be seen in our curriculum maps but here are a few examples.:

- PSHE curriculum using 'Jigsaw' provides constant links
- Carefully constructed and progressive RSE (Relationships, Sex Education) curriculum
- Online safety discussions in computing lessons and engagement in E-Safety weeks and family events
- Involvement in Anti-Bullying week, School nurse visits, Themed safety events (e.g. Bikeability / Bonfire Night)
- Road and rail safety (including out of school visits, bikeability, work with police officers in the community)
- Assemblies and Worship themes
- Involvement of children in creating risk assessments
- NSPCC PANTS lessons from Nursery to Y6 to help teach children about consent and boundaries
- School Council working on pupil voice and ways of staying safe

Coming This Term:

In partnership with the NSPCC we will be delivering age appropriate 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' assemblies for **all children**, which will be followed by workshops for all children in Years 5 and 6. For **parents** we have listened to your concerns and booked in a workshop to support you in keeping your children safe online. Further detailed information will be coming out to parents shortly.



Useful Acronyms & Vocabulary about Safeguarding

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead

KCSIE: Keeping Children Safe In Education (key document for all schools to follow)

PREVENT: Part of the Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn into extremism

SPOC: Single Point of Contact (PREVENT) - responsible for preventing children being impacted by extremism

LADO: Local Authority Designated Officer who deals with position of trust safeguarding issues

DBS: Disclosure & Barring Service used to make safe recruitment decisions

CP: Child Protection

CEOP: - Child Exploitation and Online Protection centre (tackling child sex abuse and providing advice)

Early Help: "providing Early Help support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years".

NSPCC: National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

SSCB: Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board

Who should you contact if you are concerned about a child?

Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support (SCAS) 0300 111 8007

8.30am – 5.00pm Monday to Thursday

8.30am- 4.30pm Friday

Or EDS (out of hours) Tel No. 0345 604 2886

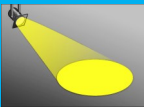
Or email: eds.team.manager@staffordshire.gov.uk

Non-emergency – call Staffordshire Police on 101

If you feel a child is immediate danger you should call 999

Parents should not email school to report concerns in case the email is not picked up. You can, however discuss concerns in person with any members of the Safeguarding Team.



 **Spotlight on: Peer on peer harm or abuse:**

Peer-on-peer abuse or harm is any form of physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, and coercive control, exercised between children, and within children's relationships. This can include: bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse Harmful sexual behaviours or sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, consensual and non consensual sharing of nude and semi nude images and or videos . Downplaying certain behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as "just banter", "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys"; or not recognising that emotional bullying can sometimes be more damaging than physical harm and should be taken equally seriously, can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for children therefore any form of peer on peer abuse is taken very seriously at Etching Hill. If you have any concerns about peer on peer harm or abuse, please speak to a member of the safeguarding team.

Please find below some useful websites, worth taking a moment to look at:-

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>—provides a wealth of support and advice for parents from roblox to dealing with grief. **We highly recommended for parents**

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/>

<https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>

<https://www.mankind.org.uk/>

<https://napac.org.uk/>

<https://galop.org.uk/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/keeping-young-children-safe-online/>



UK Chief Medical Officers' advice for parents and carers on Children and Young People's screen and social media use

Technology can be a wonderful thing but too much time sitting down or using mobile devices can get in the way of other important activities.

Here are some tips for balancing screen use with healthy living.



Sleep matters

Getting enough, good quality sleep is very important. Leave phones outside the bedroom when it is bedtime.



Education matters

Make sure you and your children are aware of, and abide by their school's policy on screen time.



Safety when out and about

Advise children to put their screens away while crossing the road or doing an activity that needs their full attention!



Talking helps

Talk with your children about using screens and what they are watching. A change in behaviour can be a sign they are distressed - make sure they know they can always speak to you or another responsible adult if they feel uncomfortable with screen or social media use.



Sharing sensibly

Parents, carers and children should talk about sharing photos and information online and how photos and words are sometimes manipulated. Never assume that their children are happy for their photos to be shared. For everyone - when in doubt, don't upload!



Keep moving!

Everyone should take a break after a couple of hours sitting or lying down using a screen. #sitlessmovemore



Family time together

Screen-free meal times are a good idea - you can enjoy face-to-face conversation, with adults giving their full attention to children.



Use helpful phone features

Some devices and platforms have special features - try using these features to keep track of how much time you (and with their permission, your children) spend looking at a screen or on social media.



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION
12+
If under 18, supervision of a parent or legal guardian required.



What parents need to know about **TIKTOK**



MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.



INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others user's videos on the app.



TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities - social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.



ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.



ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.



IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Safety Tips For Parents

TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.



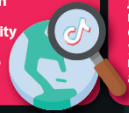
ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.



EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.



LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.



MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.



Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



NEW FOR 2020 FAMILY SAFETY MODE

TikTok Family Safety Mode allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's. It's a great way to oversee your child's digital wellbeing by giving you direct control over their safety settings and being able to remotely turn features on and off. This includes managing screen time, the ability to send and receive direct messages (and with whom) and the ability to restrict the appearance of content that might not be age appropriate.



SOURCES: www.tiktok.com

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @NationalOnlineSafety

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