



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

Parent Safeguarding Newsletter- Summer 2021

Each term we will bring the latest safeguarding developments and information to you in order that we all work together to keep our school community safe.

Safeguarding Responsibilities

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs Harrop
Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Mrs Tiernan, Mrs Sutton
Mental Health First Aiders	Mrs Harrop, Mrs Tiernan, Mrs Sutton, Mrs Farrell, Mrs Castro, Mrs Gee and Mrs Robinson.
Emergency First Aiders	All staff
Wellbeing Champions	Mrs Sheldon, Mrs Bullock, Mr Nicholls, Miss Sheppard, Mrs Conway, Mrs Davidson and Mrs Raw.
Safeguarding Governor	Mrs Donnachie
Online safety Governor	Mrs Butler
Health and Safety Governor	Mr Thorgaard

Keeping children safe while gaming

While we have been spending so much more time at home, playing video games is a fun way for children and young people to stay entertained and connected with friends. But with so many different online gaming platforms and games available it can be difficult to know exactly what your child is doing online. The NCPCC has provided an overview of some of the most popular gaming platforms for children and some tips about how to keep them safe.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/gaming-keeping-kids-safe/>

ThinkUKnow – Online safety activity packs

Online Safety Activity Packs are still available for parents and carers to use at home with their children. These include fun activities, conversation starters and practical tips on topics such as:

- Sharing images
- Watching videos
- Live streaming
- Cyber security

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=dd271ec52e-TUK_GLOBAL_12_11_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-dd271ec52e-64899225

Online safety – concerns about self-harm

We know that the coronavirus pandemic has increased the risks that children face online. One of the reasons for this is that number of moderators working to keep users safe was dramatically reduced during 'lockdown one'. The BBC published an article about the risks to children online in relation to self-harm. Young people

are extremely vulnerable when using the Internet and social media unsupervised and content that is shared can have a significant impact on them. The Charlie Waller Trust has developed a resource to support parents and carers with the issue of self-harm. The guide can be found here.

<https://charliewaller.org/resources/coping-with-self-harm-resource>

Peer on peer abuse: What is it so we know to look out for it?

This form of abuse occurs when there is any kind of physical, sexual, emotional or financial abuse or coercive control exercised between children. It should be recognised that the behaviour in question is harmful to both the perpetrator (who is a child) and the victim. Behaviour may be intimate or non-intimate.

NEW Dedicated NSPCC helpline 0800 136 663

The new helpline will provide both children and adults who are potential victims of sexual abuse in schools with the appropriate support and advice. This includes how to contact the police and report crimes if they wish. The helpline will also provide support to parents and professionals too.

Refresher: How to report safeguarding concerns

If you have a safeguarding concern, report it – no matter how small, to school or a relevant agency such as a GP or social services. Make sure you report mental health concerns too.

Refresher: How to talk to children about mental health concerns and worries:

Find a relaxed, quiet and private space

Show curiosity. Use phrases like “I noticed ...” and “I wondered if ...”

Children might not know how to put their feelings into words so it is helpful if you label feelings

Allow for comfortable silences

Show open body language and listen actively.

Make eye contact, nod and use small comments like “yes” to show you are listening, and summarise.

Normalise feelings, but do not minimise them. Let them know it is ok to feel upset or worried. At the same time, do not downplay their feelings

Offer empathy, not solutions. Try to work with them to help them find solutions instead

Be clear that you need to tell another adult if you think there is a risk to their health or safety
