



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Safeguarding Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Autumn Term 1 (2024)

St George's Safeguarding Team

Our Safeguarding Team is available to any student, parent or school staff member to discuss and report any safeguarding concerns.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Jill Fardale

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mr Kelly McCall and Mrs Hayley Shears



At St George's School we take children's online safety very seriously and hold regular internet safety lessons to raise children's awareness and provide them with information on how to conduct themselves in a range of online contexts.

There are a huge number of resources available to aid sensible and factually correct online safety education.

Lots of these resources are suitable for parents as well as teachers:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advicecentre/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-childrensafe/online-safety/>



These websites have lots of other information that you might find useful when overseeing your child's use of the internet. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of being vigilant when your children are online. If you have any further queries or questions about this or any other online safety issues, please do not hesitate to contact us



Social networking is hugely popular.

Many young people are sophisticated in the way they use social media apps and websites, tailoring their communication for different audiences, and accessing them from a range of devices including smartphones, tablets, and games consoles.

But social media, like all forms of public communication, comes with some risks. Not all of these risks turn into actual problems; and if children never face any risks, they never learn how to deal with them. By helping your child understand what the risks are, you can play a big part in preventing them from turning into problems.

To help, follow this link for a guide which supports parents in how to minimise risks and what to do if you are concerned. <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/ukcissocial-media-guide-for-parents-and-carers/>

Real Love Rocks is an education and awareness raising programme developed by Barnardos' Safer Futures Trauma Services.

Promoting children and young people's rights to healthy, consensual, and safe relationships with peers, partners, their family and across their community is at the heart of this. Real Love Rocks seeks to raise awareness of the different types of abuse and exploitation that people experience.

This includes Child Sexual Abuse, Sexual Exploitation, Criminal Exploitation, Radicalisation, Extremism, and the world online, making it more relevant to children and young people of today covering themes such as:

- Children's rights
- Consent, power and control
- Feelings and emotional regulation
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Grooming
- Bullying/Cyberbullying
- Appropriate/inappropriate content online
- Challenging victim blaming
- Laws around keeping people safe <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/>



Online contact and staying safe:

Video streaming and chatting online can be really exciting, but do you know how to protect your child from adult content and contact? What might they encounter? Chatting and meeting new people on the internet can be fun and appealing for children. There are lots of online apps and communities that can be educational and supportive for them, however there are opportunities online for adults to contact children.

No matter how young your child is, if they are using a device that has the internet- it is important to talk to them about people who contact them online.

We understand that you can't always be there with them, although if they are 11 and under we would always recommend that their device is used in a public space, making it all the more important that your child knows that they can come to you if someone online says or does something that makes them uncomfortable, worried or upset. For further advice, explore resources available on <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/>



Operation Encompass

Our school participates in a national scheme called 'Operation Encompass', which is a joint partnership between Dorset Police and schools. One of the principles of Operation Encompass is that all incidents of domestic abuse are shared with schools, not just those where an offence can be identified. This system has been established to help schools provide in-school support to children who have been present at, exposed to or involved in any domestic abuse incident.

We know that children can be significantly harmed, physically and/or emotionally, during these situations, and that it also negatively affects their learning and behaviour. Therefore, as part of the Operation Encompass procedure, and to help mitigate the resulting negative impact, the school receives an email from TVP the morning after a child has been witness to, or involved in, any reported domestic abuse incident. We are then able to use this information to provide the right support to any child and their family as and when it is needed. Our key staff for Operation Encompass reports are Mrs Farndale, Mrs Shears and Mrs McCall



Be Bright, Be Seen!

We are always mindful for the safety of our children near to roads and conscious of how vulnerable they can be. Therefore, we are sending out an important reminder to these dangers as autumn draws in and the clocks go back an hour on Sunday 31st October, signalling the end of British Summer Time. At this time of year, there is reduced visibility for drivers and pedestrians and as a result, your child can become even more vulnerable near to roads. To help raise your child's awareness of this issue, we have included a flyer with safety tips so you can discuss with your child how important it is to be visible when near roads. It emphasises how wearing brightly coloured clothing shows up well in daylight but as it gets dark, reflective clothing and accessories are far more effective in highlighting pedestrians through car headlights or street lamps.

BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN this winter



Now that the clocks have gone back and it's getting darker earlier on, it's more important than ever to make sure you can be seen when you're out and about near roads.

There are loads of ways to be seen and stay safer
- so check over the page for some top tips!

5 top tips on how to BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN

- 1** Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
- 2** If you're out and about when it's dark, wear reflective gear to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
- 3** Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip-on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.
- 4** If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
- 5** Of course, 'Being Bright' isn't the only way to stay safer. If you're out at night, choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and remember to always use the Green Cross Code.

For more road safety tips, games and videos, visit the Tales of the Road website at www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad

Be Bright,
Be Seen

THINK



Remember!

You can always speak to your child's class teacher, Mrs Farndale, Mrs Shears, and Mrs McCall if you have any safeguarding concerns.