



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Safeguarding Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Autumn term 1 (2023)

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 Farndale

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Hayley Shear and Mrs Kelly McCall



Dear Parents and Carers,

At St George's School, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's responsibility** and our top priority. Anyone who comes in to contact with children and their families has a role to play.

We recognise that all staff and governors have a full and active part to play in protecting our pupils from harm, and that the child's welfare is our paramount concern. We ensure that anyone, paid or voluntary, who seeks to work in our school is safe to do so.

Our school takes pride in offering a safe, caring, positive and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child free from discrimination or bullying where children can learn and develop happily.

Each term we share a safeguarding newsletter with you, they will give you updates and information on ways to help keep the children safe.

Best Wishes

Jill Farndale (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023

Keeping Children Safe in Education is a statutory Department for Education document, which all schools must follow when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It covers many aspects of safeguarding including different forms of abuse, early help processes, safe recruitment, how concerns must be reported and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Leads.

[Click here](#) for the full document.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes



How can my child report any concerns?

Did you know that each class has a system for your child to report how they are feeling to their class teacher? The classes have either a 'Worry Monster' or 'Worry' jars. We check these regularly and discuss any issues with the children, so that they know they are being listened to and their concerns are being taken seriously. The children are aware they can talk to anyone who works in school if they are worried about something or have a concern.



What are the signs of child abuse?

NSPCC

The signs of child abuse aren't always obvious, and a child might not feel able to tell anyone what's happening to them. Sometimes, children don't even realise that what is happening to them, is abuse.

There are different types of child abuse and the signs that a child is being abused may depend on the type. For example, the signs that a child is being neglected may be different from the signs that a child is being abused sexually.

Common Signs

Some common signs that there may be something concerning happening in a child's life include:

- unexplained changes in behaviour or personality
- becoming withdrawn
- seeming anxious
- becoming uncharacteristically aggressive
- lacks social skills and has few friends if any
- poor bond or relationship with a parent
- knowledge of adult issues inappropriate for their age
- running away or going missing
- always choosing to wear clothes which cover their body

These signs don't necessarily mean that a child is being abused, there could be other things happening in their life which are affecting their behaviour – but we can help you to assess the situation.

You may also notice some concerning behaviour from adults who you know have children in their care, which makes you concerned for the child/ children's safety and wellbeing.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/>

If you are worried about a child's safety please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

The following members of staff are Designated Safeguarding Leads for St George's Primary School:

- Mrs Farndale (DSL)
- Mrs Shears (DDSL)
- Mrs McCall (DDSL)

They can be contacted via the school office, or by telephone on 01747 840409. Safeguarding Governor: Mr Harry Phillips

For a copy of our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding 2023 Policy, please visit the 'Safeguarding' page on our school website.

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



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 and Mrs Shears.



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 29th 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.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

18
CENSORED

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>

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National Online Safety®

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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 or Mrs McCall if you have any safeguarding concerns.