



Welcome!

Welcome to Witham St Hughs Academy's Safeguarding Newsletter. Keeping children safe is of course, our key priority here at school. Safeguarding takes many forms including: Protecting children from harm; preventing impairment of children's health and development; enabling safe and effective parenting and giving children equal opportunities in life. We do many things every day in school to ensure pupils are safe including: ensuring all staff are trained in safeguarding; having clear policies and procedures in place to keep children safe; monitoring pupil attendance; ensuring a safe and healthy site; ensuring the behaviour of pupils is in line with the Academy behaviour policy and using our curriculum to teach children about risk taking, diversity, healthy lifestyles, managing relationships, online safety and much more. Our safeguarding policy is always available to view via our website.

**Keeping
children safe
is everyone's
responsibility**



What is Safeguarding?

'Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child. No single professional can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.' - *Keeping Children Safe in Education*

L.E.A.D. Academy Trust believes in: Creating and maintaining a safe learning environment for pupils; Identifying where there are child welfare concerns and taking action to address them, in partnership with other organisations where appropriate.

Focus on: Safeguarding on our Academy Website

Our Academy website has a whole section under 'Parents' called 'Safeguarding'. Here you will find a plethora of resources around the topic of safeguarding to support parents and carers at home. It includes information on our systems and processes within school and identifies our Academy safeguarding team. Here you will find information about what to do if you have a concern about a child alongside important phone numbers you may need. All current and previous safeguarding newsletters can be found on this page too. This page shares some really useful online safety information for parents and carers too - the National Online Safety Parent Posters are particularly helpful one-stop-shops for learning about the parental control options on some of the most popular online platforms, games and apps. Please do take a moment to familiarise yourself with this information:

[https://withamsthughacademy.co.uk/
safeguarding/](https://withamsthughacademy.co.uk/safeguarding/)



Who can help?

Every school has a 'Designated Safeguarding Lead'. At Witham St Hughs Academy, these are: Richard Stock, Emily Broadley, Hannah Younger and Michelle Dexter. Our safeguarding governor is Marcus Capell. If you have any concerns in relation to a safeguarding, please feel free to speak to a safeguarding lead at any time.

Useful phone numbers

Social Services: 01522 782111
ChildLine: 0800 1111
Lincolnshire Prevent Team: 020 7340 7264
Young Carers Helpline: 01522 553275
NSPCC whistle blowing helpline: 08088 005000
FGM helpline: 08000 283550
Samaritans: 01522 528282
Family Services Directory: 0800 195 1635

Online Safety: The W App - Anonymous Polls

This is a fairly new app in which people can send anonymous voice memos and create anonymous polls.

The terms state that you have to be 13 to use the app. There are no age verification or assurance processes to enforce this.

The app only works with notifications turned on, and there are a lot of notifications.

Once an account has been created, the user picks their school and participates in polls. A user can choose any school (no verification takes place) and then you can see all users at that school (this includes their name/year group and profile picture if that has been added).

In the polls, users are asked a question (for example 'Hallway crush') and then the user selects one of four random people from that school. Whilst the app says that it is anonymous, users can purchase a membership that allows users to see who chose them in a poll.

You should be aware that this app does include in app purchases and can be linked to other social media accounts. Polls can be shared on Instagram and Snapchat.

You can block and report other users.

Further information Internet Matters have produced an article outlining what you need to know about anonymous apps in general and the risks your child might face in using them, including cyberbullying.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/anonymous-apps-guide-what-parents-need-to-know/>

