



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



Focus on: Injuries

A key part of staff's safeguarding responsibility in school is looking out for any unusual or unexplained injuries children may present. This is a legal duty of care that all members of staff have as part of their role within school. Whilst we understand that children will often have bumps and scrapes from day-to-day play, more significant or unusual injuries may warrant further questions to be asked. We will always ensure parents/carers are part of these conversations as appropriate, with the sole goal of ensuring children are kept safe at all times.



Focus on: County Lines



County Lines is a method of drug dealing by organised criminal groups (OCGs). These groups typically involve the movement of drugs from large cities in England to market and coastal towns and villages around the UK. They aim to establish new operations in these places.

County Lines is also a form of criminal exploitation that typically relies on older gang members grooming children from inner city areas. However, research highlights that gangs target younger children and this is happens frequently in Lincolnshire.

The gangs spot vulnerabilities and target these children to transport the drugs and money and manage the operation at the dispersed locations. It's at these locations that further exploitation of local children follows. Often children can be groomed by offering material rewards and then use this to further exploit them.



Who can help?

Every school has a 'Designated Safeguarding Lead'. At Witham St Hughs Academy, these are: Richard Stock, Emily Broadley, Steve Ross, 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

Roblox - How to Report

Most users of Roblox will probably know how to report content or other players on Roblox, but it's possible some (including parents) won't. There is a 1-minute video on YouTube showing users how to report on Roblox (see link below).



[How do you report on #Roblox? \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

WhatsApp

WhatsApp is a social messaging app from Meta that is used by over 2.7 billion people every month. Users can send text, voice and video messages, make voice and video calls and share information and documents. This app has become very popular with our students, especially in Years 5 and 6. Previously, users needed to be 16 years or older to use the app; however, in 2024 the age limit lowered to 13 years old.



This reduced age requirement allows more young people to use the platform. Additionally, children under this age still use WhatsApp to connect and communicate with friends, family and communities. While this can benefit children's wellbeing, parents must take action to make sure their accounts are safe at any age. Risks include inappropriate content or contact from strangers.

We have provided a useful link for parents to understand WhatsApp and to ensure its safe use for children.

[What is WhatsApp? A safety guide for parents | Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/whatsapp-safety-guide-for-parents/)