



### 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.



### Focus on: Playing Out

As the weather gets warmer, children will of course be playing outside more and more—what great news! When to allow your child 'out' to play without direct adult supervision is a topic of discussion amongst many parents and carers. This is clearly dependent on many factors including the maturity and responsibility of the child, the safety of the area in which they will be playing, as well as parental perception of risk.

A study by The British Children's Play Survey found that the average age a child was allowed to play outside alone was 10.7 years, around 2 years older than their parent's generation. The study goes on to say that "social changes, safety fears, technology and traffic growth all arguably playing a part. However, the end result for all too many children is the same: boredom, isolation, inactivity and poorer mental and physical health. The consequences for their development and wellbeing should not be underestimated."

It is a careful balance to strike between encouraging outdoor play and child safety and we know as a school this is something parents will carefully be considering over the coming weeks and months. As always, if you need any further support, please let us know.

### Focus on: Grooming

Grooming is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or trafficking. Children and young people can be groomed online or face-to-face, by a stranger or by someone they know—for example a family member, friend or professional. Groomers may be male or female.

### Recognising the signs

If a child is being groomed, they may:

- Be very secretive, including online activity
- Have older boyfriends/ girlfriends
- go to unusual places to meet friends
- Have new things such as clothes or technology they can't explain
- Have access to drugs and alcohol

If you are worried or have any concerns, please let us know.

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





### 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

### Talk PANTS



Talk PANTS supports parents and carers of children aged 3-11, to simple age-appropriate conversations, that can help keep children safe from sexual abuse. Simple conversations can make a big difference, and that's what Talk PANTS is all about.

The video link below supports parents and carers to have conversations with children about what is and what isn't ok. The video uses the friendly character, Pantosaurus. It also emphasises the importance of the partnership between parents and teachers.

Please see the link below to support with your discussions. The video will be used in the Academy, too.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bk0p0Et-ZZ0>