



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.



EDAN Lincs / LDASS - Hours: Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Tel: 01522 510041 Option 2 - Email: info@ldass.org.uk

Secure email via CJSJ: ldass.referral@edanlincs.cjsm.net

Refuge Hours: Monday-Friday: 8.30am-7pm - Sat 10am-5pm

Tel: 01522 510041 Option 1 - Email: refuge@edanlincs.org.uk

Secure Email via CJSJ: refuge.secure@edanlincs.cjsm.net

Focus on: Smart Watches

January may be a time where parents need to get to grips with some new devices following the festive season! If your child now has a smart watch, it is worth understanding the safeguarding risks associated with these before allowing them to be used by a child.

At our Academy, smart watches are not permitted to be worn due to the safeguarding risk to both adults and children that these pose. Many of these devices can make calls, take photographs and record video. These are not safe functions for children to have access to within school and do not keep staff members, children or their peers safe from harm.

This link shares some good advice with parents and carers about smart watch set up, parental controls, notifications and boundaries. This should be useful information if your child has access to a smartwatch to wear outside of school hours as the safeguarding concerns with these devices still remain outside of school.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/smart-watches-and-fitness-trackers>

Focus on: Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse refers to any instance of threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional) that occurs between individuals who are or were intimate partners or family members. It involves the misuse of power and control by one individual over another and constitutes a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. Typically, domestic abuse tends to escalate in both frequency and intensity over time.

Domestic Abuse can include:

- Threats of physical violence, even if physical force is not used
- Physical violence, such as shoving, hitting, kicking, head-butting, burning, suffocation, strangulation, or the use of objects/weapons
- Forced sexual activity
- Mental, emotional, and psychological cruelty, including name-calling, isolation from friends and family, deprivation of income, preventing a person from leaving the home, and damaging personal property or pets
- Harassment and stalking
- Using and abusing children in various ways to frighten or force compliance
- Forced marriage
- Female genital mutilation and so-called honour-based violence
- Coercive and controlling behaviour by an intimate partner or within the family

Domestic abuse is never ok and there are lot of people who can help. EDAN Lincs is a registered charity providing support & assistance to anyone suffering or fleeing from Domestic Abuse in Lincolnshire.



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: Internet Matters Online Safety Checklist

ABC online safety checklist



Set your child up for safety online

The checklist below covers actions you can take to help protect children of all ages from online harms. Once you've tackled this, use the tabs above to see extra steps you can take based on your child's age.

Internet Matters have produced a really useful online checklist for setting up devices for children of different ages. It considers online safety across an ABC of 3 categories: Activate, Balance, Check. Each checklist is grouped according to the child's age, from under 5's, 6-10, 11-13 and 14+. There is also a good 'general' checklist for children of all ages. We know that some of our pupils may have been lucky enough to receive devices for Christmas, and that setting up the right parental controls and checks is an essential part of safeguarding children online.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Your-ABC-online-safety-checklist--Internet-Matters.pdf>

ABC online safety checklist for 6-10s

If your child is between 6 and 10 years old, use the checklist below to manage new digital experiences.

