



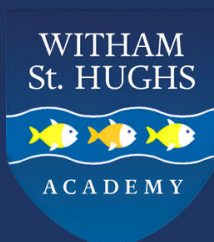
Witham St Hughs Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy



Safeguarding Newsletter

September 2025



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.



What school will do if we have a safeguarding concern

All school staff receive regular training on a wide variety of safeguarding topics. They know the key areas of abuse to look out for, and the signs that there may be a concern. Equally, children or families will sometimes share a concern directly with a member of staff.

Where a member of staff has a concern, they will speak to the child involved to find out some more information. Staff will never ask a child leading questions or put words into their mouth. Staff will never form a judgement based on what they have been told, but they will simply listen and reassure the child. If a staff member then has a concern about a child, they will report this to one of the 'Designated Safeguarding Leads' (DSL) and/or log this on our safeguarding system.

If we have a concern about your child, and it is safe to do so, a DSL will always call you to discuss this within the same school day. Parents and carers are pivotal to this process and school will always work alongside parents and carers to ensure the best interest of every child.

Focus on: Misogyny



Misogyny can be defined as: ‘feelings of hating women, or the belief that men are much better than women. The dislike of, contempt for, or ingrained prejudice against women and girls’. Unfortunately, this type of radicalised thinking is becoming more widespread within communities, both face to face and online. This is therefore something that many children will be exposed to either directly or indirectly. Misogyny goes hand in hand with toxic masculinity and has a negative affect on both boys and girls. In school, we ensure that all pupils are taught, at an age-appropriate level, what appropriate and inappropriate behaviours look and sound like, and to speak to an adult if they hear or see anything that upsets them. Staff listen carefully for any views shared by pupils that may be of concern and observe pupil behaviours closely. Online can be a key place for older pupils to encounter these kind of extreme views, and we would continue to encourage all online activity to be very closely monitored by parents and guardians.

Online Safety

LEGO® Build & Talk

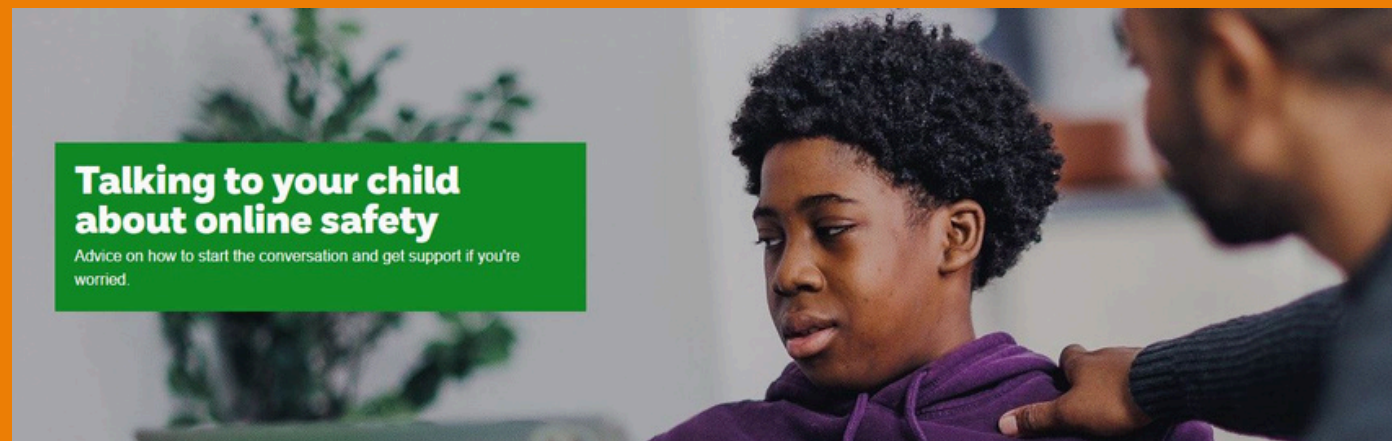


The NSPCC have developed some useful resources for parents and carers around starting those tricky conversations about online safety. Many of us see our online lives and offline lives as different. But for children growing up with technology and the internet, there isn't a difference – online life and offline life is just life.

Technology can move at an extraordinarily fast pace. So it can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they're doing online, who they might be speaking to or discussing the potential risks and issues.

Use the link below to explore some of these easy-to-use resources:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety>



Our Website



Our Academy website has a host of information regarding safeguarding, our DSL's and safeguarding practices within school.

Importantly, it also has a variety of really useful resources for parents and carers. These include resources from NSPCC, Healthy Minds and Childline to name a few. Parents and carers will also find many links to online safety resources including the 'National Online Safety' posters which share some really helpful guidance on setting parental controls across a whole host of different apps, websites and devices.

<https://withamsthughssacademy.co.uk/safeguarding/>

Who can help?

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

Useful 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



Who to contact?

Remember that we are always here to support you and Michelle Dexter our DSL and SENDCo, contacts many parents regularly to make sure everything is going well. Her email address is: michelle.dexter@withamsthughssacademy.co.uk

If you think that you need further support then do not hesitate to contact the school on: 01522 869590 or admin@withamsthughssacademy.co.uk



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