



Safeguarding Newsletter

Termlet 4



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: Playing Out



As the weather gets warmer and the evenings get lighter, we are sure that many of our older children will once again be 'playing out' with their friends around Witham. This is of course a wonderful opportunity to spend time outside playing with peers in the fresh air and exploring their local community. 'Playing out' of course comes with its own set of safeguarding concerns and considerations for parents and carers and, as there are no national legal restrictions in this area, it is for each family to make their own judgement on whether their child is responsible enough to 'play out' without the direct supervision of a responsible adult.

Families may consider the following things when making this important decision:

- The age of the child
- The maturity of the child
- Whether or not there are any SEND needs
- Location of the family home in relation to main roads, services, building work etc
- How confident the child is in an emergency situation
- Knowledge of road safety
- Life skills e.g. Can the child tell the time, recite their address, recall a parent phone number, swim, administer basic first aid...

Each family is of course completely unique and will make the decision that is right for them at the time that is right for them. Many families also find that many of the physical and social benefits of spending time outside playing with friends, can be achieved with supervised visits to the park or play dates in the garden.

Online Safety: Supporting children of different ages with technology

There are no exact rules about the right age, if at all, to give your child access to technology. Every child is different and will mature in their own time. If parents do decide to give their child access to technology, they will then start to consider the level of independence and freedom they feel is safe and appropriate.

Parents should consider carefully:

- The age you give your child access to any device.
- The age you give your child access to their own device.
- The access your child has to online platforms and services.



The NSPCC have create some really helpful, short guides for parents broken down into different age bands. They share support for children under 5, children under 10, pre-teens and teens and children with SEND.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/access-to-technology-for-different-ages/>

Our Website



Our Academy website has a host of information regarding safeguarding, our DSL's and our 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://withamsthughacademy.co.uk/safeguarding/>

Who can help?

Every school has a 'Designated Safeguarding Lead'. At Witham St Hughs Academy these are: Sam Coy, Emily Broadley, Michelle Dexter and Hannah Younger. 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 is: michelle.dexter@withamsthughacademy.co.uk

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