



Witham St Hughs Academy
A L.E.A.D. Academy



Safeguarding Newsletter

Termlet 5



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: Screen Time



The Department for Education and Department of Health have published new evidence-based guidance to support families with children's screen use, particularly in the early years.

The guidance highlights the importance of:

- Limiting screen time for under-5s (no screen time for under-2s except shared activities; around 1 hour per day for 2-5s)
- Avoiding fast-paced, social-media-style and AI-driven content for young children
- Keeping mealtimes and the hour before bed screen-free
- Co-viewing, with adults watching and talking about content with children to support development and safety

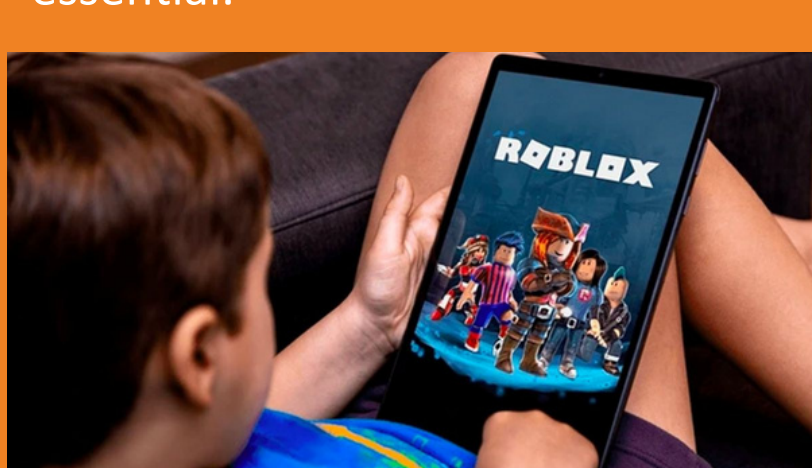
This guidance supports our safeguarding responsibilities by promoting healthy boundaries, reducing exposure to inappropriate content, and encouraging positive adult supervision of digital activity.

Full guidance on the Screen Time Guidance for Under-5s is available here:

<https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/screen-time-under-5s/>

Online Safety: Roblox "Kids" and "Select" Accounts – A Guide for Parents

Roblox has introduced new account types for children to help make the platform safer and more age-appropriate. "Roblox Kids" (for ages 5-8) offers a highly restricted experience with only low-risk games and no chat by default, while "Roblox Select" (for ages 9-15) allows access to a wider range of content with some communication features. These changes are designed to improve safety, but parental involvement remains essential.



Key Safety Features

- Age-based accounts with appropriate restrictions
- Limited or no chat for younger users
- Games filtered by safety rating
- Parental controls to manage content and communication
- Ongoing moderation and reporting systems

Safeguarding Tips for Parents

- Talk regularly with your child about their online activity
- Remind them never to share personal information
- Encourage them to report anything that worries them
- Check and adjust parental control settings regularly
- Be aware that older children may have more access to chat features

Find out more here:

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/48163847200532-What-are-Roblox-Kids-and-Roblox-Select>

These updates are a positive step, but they do not replace the need for supervision and open conversations about staying safe online.

Our Website



Our Academy website has a host of information regarding safeguarding, our DSLs 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://withamsthughscademy.co.uk/safeguarding/>

Who can help?

Every school has a 'Designated Safeguarding Lead'. At Witham St Hughs Academy these are: Sam Coy, James Durkan, 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@withamsthughscademy.co.uk

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

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