



### 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.

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



### What is Safeguarding?

'Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child. No single professional can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.' - *Keeping Children Safe in Education*

L.E.A.D. Academy Trust believes in: Creating and maintaining a safe learning environment for pupils; Identifying where there are child welfare concerns and taking action to address them, in partnership with other organisations where appropriate.

### Focus on: Mental Health

Children's mental health is also a key aspect of safeguarding. As the past 18 months have shown us, having a strong support network in the event of poor mental health is critical for everyone—including children. School supports children's mental health in many ways including our curriculum and character education lessons, assemblies, staff training and awareness of children's mental health issues, a dedicated mental health team as well as numerous opportunities throughout the day and week for children to talk to the teachers, teaching assistants, and other members of staff such as Ms Ford and Mrs Dexter. Children are actively taught strategies to support their mental wellbeing and understand that mental health is as important as physical health. Every child is different, but there are some signs you can watch out for as indicators that a child might be struggling. These include: excessive fears and worries, emotional changes, losing interest in friends or activities they used to enjoy, appetite changes or seeming tired or difficulty concentrating. These are just some of many signs to watch out for, but may help in initiating a conversation around mental wellbeing. As always, if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact school for support.



### 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 Gemma Grundy. 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

There is no denying that children love YouTube! They can spend hours searching and watching their favourite videos, researching a school topic or creating their own videos and uploading them to share with family and friends. Unfortunately, not everything on YouTube is child friendly, and young people can come across some very inappropriate content. Here is a small collection of top tips for parents to help make YouTube that bit safer. (Source: swgfl.org.uk)



1. Create an account in Google that is used by the whole family. When you make a shared Google account you can see exactly what videos your children are watching, uploading and sharing.
2. Once you have signed in to YouTube via the Family Google Account, the next thing to do is switch on restricted mode. If you scroll all the way to the bottom of the YouTube page you will see an option to turn on restricted mode. This will help keep out some, but not all, of the inappropriate content you don't want your children to see. Remember that you have to save this option and you have to set it up for every browser that you use. So if you have multiple computers then you will have to do this on each one.
3. Sit down with you children and go through the things that they like to watch. Most content they like will be attached to a channel. If you are happy with the content of the channel then ask your children to subscribe to it, this will then promote content to their feed when they log in. It also lets them know when new videos are available and hopefully this will stop some of the searching which may lead them into content they don't want to see.
4. If your children like creating videos then make sure they are signed into the Family Account when they upload, and make sure they upload privately. When they click the upload button they can choose to upload as Public, Private or Unlisted. Private means that only people you choose can view the video. If you choose Unlisted then the video can only be viewed by a link generated within the video and this means that only people that you send the link to can view the video.
5. The last thing to do is disable the comments. By disabling this it stops people from making inappropriate comments on any video uploaded by them.