

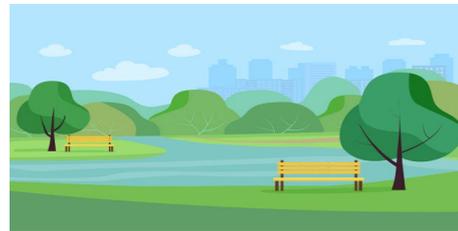


Welcome!

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.

Focus on: Playing Out

As the weather gets warmer, children will of course be playing outside more and more—what great news! When to allow your child 'out' to play without direct adult supervision is a topic of discussion amongst many parents and carers. This is clearly dependent on many factors including the maturity and responsibility of the child, the safety of the area in which they will be playing, as well as parental perception of risk. A study by The British Children's Play Survey found that the average age a child was allowed to play outside alone was 10.7 years, around 2 years older than their parent's generation. The study goes on to say that "*social changes, safety fears, technology and traffic growth all arguably playing a part. However, the end result for all too many children is the same: boredom, isolation, inactivity and poorer mental and physical health. The consequences for their development and wellbeing should not be underestimated.*" It is a careful balance to strike between encouraging outdoor play and child safety and we know as a school this is something parents will carefully be considering over the coming weeks and months. As always, if you need any further support, please let us know.



Focus on: Walking Home

Your child walking home from school alone can be an exciting step for them on their journey towards independence. When your child is old enough, and parents and carers are confident of their road safety and understanding of strangers, this may be something you consider for your child. As an Academy, we allow children to walk home—with permission—from Year 5 onwards. This is of course a decision for parents and carers to make and it is not an expectation that all children walk home alone, however permission forms will not be available for pupils below UKS2. Pupils are also reminded by school that they are representatives of the Academy when walking to and from school in their uniform, and must conduct themselves accordingly. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter.



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: YouTube—Parent Allowlisting

The YouTube Kids app was introduced in the UK in January 2016 and was designed to allow younger children to use YouTube in a more managed way whilst giving parents extra controls. Whilst it is a great app, many children and families are not using this because the channels/videos that the children want to watch are not available on the YouTube Kids app. This has now changed. YouTube have introduced a new service called 'Parent Allowlisting' which can be used on mobile devices where a parent can approve a video/channel from the main YouTube app into their child's YouTube Kids account.

There is a link to a video explainer on YouTube which you can find below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVYsgC7-6ZM&list=WL&index=17>

