Safeguarding Newsletter

Term 3 2023

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.

Click to download the Managing Angry Feelings Workbook

Focus on: Managing Angry Feelings

Healthy Minds Lincolnshire provide a large range of online workshops designed for children and young people to complete alongside their parents/carers. The workshop below focuses on managing angry feelings:

https://www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/online-workshops

https://youtu.be/hdi0Gi6vbPk

There is a workbook to compliment this workshop which is quick and easy to download.

Healthy Minds Lincolnshire offers a wide range of these workshops and accompanying materials including:

- Managing worries and anxious feelings

- Staying emotionally healthy

- Building positive self esteem

- Survival guide to change

Focus on: Devices

January is a time where many of us may have new devices to get to grips with following the festive season. When setting up different devices, it can be difficult knowing all the different settings that are available to help protect children, this includes allowing or disallowing chat, friends, spending money, content filters and much more. The links below will help you find the details, as well as non-technical instructions, which will help you to understand what is available to you and how to set up your child's devices.

Gaming consoles and devices

https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/

Smartphones

https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/

Broadband and mobile networks

https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/

Entertainment and search engines

https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/

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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 Julie-Anne Leak. 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: Minecraft

Minecraft remains ever popular and can be a great learning tool that is often used to teach planning skills, recreate famous buildings in 3D and coding. Players use building blocks (a bit like Lego) to create their own worlds.

Check the age ratings

Minecraft is rated by PEGI as 7+ or 12+ depending on which game version you are playing. The App store rate it as 9+ and the Google Play store rate it as 10+.

Which mode?

You can choose between Creative or Survival mode - creative mode removes the survival elements of the game (no mobs appearing at night) so may be a more appropriate mode for your child to play.

What else do I need to be aware of?

- Multiplayer – children can interact with others (including strangers), you can switch this option off within settings or choose to play offline.

- Block and report players – if your child is playing with others, make sure they know how to block and report players within the game.

- Additional purchases – be aware of in app purchases and the purchase of additional items (skin packs) to support (although not needed) game play.

In addition, protect your child's privacy by using a nickname (don't include their age/birth year) rather than their real name for their profile and chat to your child to make sure that when playing online they know not to share personal information. Also, make sure they know they can talk to you or a trusted adult if anybody or anything is making them feel uncomfortable.

Do not forget to make sure you have set up appropriate parental controls on the device your child is using to play Minecraft as well.

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/is-minecraft-safe-for-children/