



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: Lincolnshire Police Prevent Team

It can be hard to know what to do if you're worried someone close is expressing extreme views or hatred, which could lead to them harming themselves or others. Working with other organisations, the police protect vulnerable people from being exploited by extremists through a Home Office programme called 'Prevent'. Young people can be at a greater risk of being targeted by extremists and the internet has made it much easier for radicalisers to find and identify people who might be easily influenced.

In Lincolnshire, last year most of the cases referred to Prevent related to young people and one of the biggest concerns was online activity including the sharing of extremist information. Friends and family are often the first to spot worrying changes taking place. These can be big or small changes that take place very quickly or over a longer period. Trust your instincts and if you're concerned seek advice.

ACT Early provides advice on the risks of radicalisation, spotting the signs and what to do if concerned.

<https://actearly.uk>

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: Useful resources on our website

Our Academy website - <https://withamsthughscademy.co.uk/> has a huge amount of really useful information about staying safe online. Under the 'Parents' tab you will find 'Safeguarding'. Here you will find lots of information about things we do in school to help keep your child safe, as well as useful resources for parents and carers. Towards the bottom of this page, you will find lots of posters from 'National Online Safety' which give parents and carers helpful guidance around some of the most popular games, apps and online platforms. Paper copies of any of these are available, please just ask Mrs Broadley on the playground.

