



Mawsley CP School Safeguarding Newsletter November 2023



Welcome to our first 2023-2024 Safeguarding Newsletter and in particular, a warm welcome to our new parents and carers of Willow Class and Holly Class.

We hope that you find our safeguarding newsletters relevant and supportive for everyone in our school community.



With the nights drawing in, many of our children are finding that they are spending more time indoors and often this means more time spent on devices.

Whilst many children are able to access this safely, this inevitably increases online risks.

Childline and NSPCC have reported some concerning recent statistics regarding online safety:

- 1/3 of children aged between 8 – 17 have experienced worrying or nasty content online
- There has been an 84% rise in grooming cases in the past 4 years
- 26% of girls surveyed stated that they have been asked for nude or semi-nude photos or videos of themselves.
- 62% of 7 – 16 year olds who have a smartphone always have access to it
- 1/5 of school children spend more than two hours on a school day on their mobile phones
- 33% of 5 – 7 year olds and 60% of 8 – 11 year olds have social media profiles, despite the minimum age usually being 13
- 95% of 3 – 17 year olds watch, post or share content on video sharing platforms

Children may not always be able to identify danger or have developed the resilience to things that they may find upsetting.

Tips to help keep your child safe online

Helpful tools and advice you can use to keep your child safe when they use the internet at home, at a friend's house or at school.

The internet is great for learning, sharing, connecting and creating. So try and balance how you guide your child on online safety with an understanding of why they want to use it. You don't want your child to feel they can't come to you if they encounter a problem online.

Set rules and agree boundaries as a family

- ✓ Set boundaries for how long your child can spend online and what they can do.
- ✓ Agree this as a family so that access to devices can be shared fairly.
- ✓ Remember there are tools that can help you manage and monitor access and use across all devices.

Talk about online safety and get involved

- ✓ Have conversations about online safety little and often and build it into other conversations.
- ✓ Ask questions about what they do online, such as what sites they visit and who they talk to.
- ✓ Make the use of the internet a family activity.
- ✓ Remember to share these rules with babysitters, childminders and other family members.
- ✓ Talk to other parents about internet use, such as what they do and don't allow.



NSPCC
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.



Online safety and our children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

(SEND)

Children with SEND can find it more difficult to identify unsafe situations online and this makes them more vulnerable to risks.

They might be:

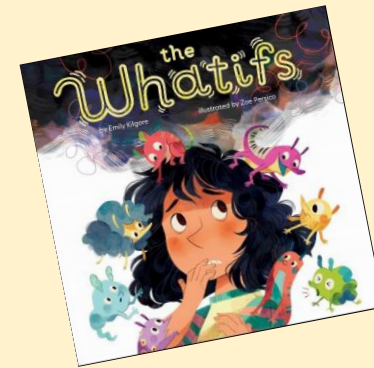
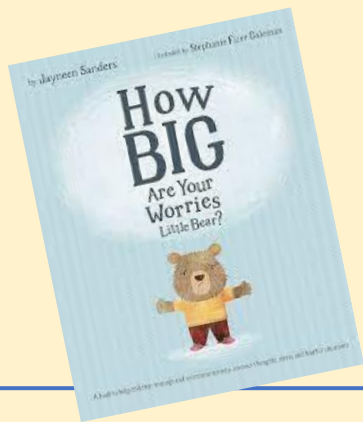
- More likely to believe what they are told by friends or strangers
- More trusting and have a greater belief in what they see and hear
- Less likely to think critically about online content
- Less able to identify risky situations
- Less discriminating of their own behaviour and that of others

How can we help to keep our SEND children safe?

- Use plain and simple language when talking about online safety
- Use visuals where necessary when communicating about online safety
- Look for cues and signs of body language, expression, eye contact and peer interaction when identifying possible issues
- Remember we are here at Mawsley School to help 😊
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[This video link can offer further help for parents of SEND children:](https://saferinternet.org.uk/send)

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/send>



Help with Discussing Worrying Issues with Children

We have undoubtedly all seen worrying news and images recently from different parts of the world and this can sometimes lead to children raising difficult questions. It can be tricky to know how to reassure children without giving false hope or information in an unpredictable world.

Equally, there are times when families need to discuss other difficult personal issues that might have a significant effect on children, such as needing to share bad news or approaching topics that make parents and carers uncomfortable, such as puberty, sex or drugs.

The NSPCC has some top tips for how to talk to and reassure children about these kind of issues:

- Find out what they already know, using 'tell me about...' questions
- Use TV shows such as Newsround or other contextual programmes, or a story book could be useful when discussing topics.
- Use one-step-removed to ask the children to put themselves in somebody else's shoes and discuss how they may manage a worrying situation
- Be ready to pause a conversation if it is tricky and come back to it again and break down the conversation into bite size pieces as necessary
- Remind children of all the ways in which they are safe: at home, at school, within a safe country and what that is comprised of
- Listen and validate all feelings – it is OK to feel anxious, worried or angry – knowing how to deal with that is what is important

Out of Hours Safeguarding

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child outside of school hours, please contact the MASH team on 0300 126 1000 (option 1) or e-mail them at MASH@nctrust.co.uk

If you think a child is in immediate danger or missing, please contact the police and/or an ambulance directly by phoning 999

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child, who is not in immediate danger of harm, please speak to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads.