



Safeguarding Newsletter for Families

June 2021

In this issue:

- Saxilby School Safeguarding Team
- Discord info sheet
- County Lines Info
- KOOTH

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



Welcome to our Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Catherine Stratton



Deputy Safeguarding Leads:

Alice Beveridge



Designated Wider safeguarding Team:

Family Support worker (Fully trained in DSL Role):

Theresa Miller



Safeguarding Governor:

Linda Hawbrook

Our Safeguarding Policy

Please scan the QR code or click the link to find our most recent policy.

[Policy Link](#)



The Importance of Attendance for Safeguarding

Attendance monitoring is a key part of our safeguarding processes in school. We take non-attendance and lateness seriously. School will maintain records of where children are and reasons for non-attendance or late arrival. We are a duty to investigate non-attendance - see [section 175 Education Act 2002](#),

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

action for
children



ChildLine
0800 1111

however you feel, ChildLine is here for you.
Call free, day or night on 0800 1111. Or if you're deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, textphone 0800 430 222. ChildLine is a service provided by the NSPCC.

NSPCC
Worried about a child?
0808 800 5000
help@nspcc.org.uk

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Are all your contact details up to date?

If you change your home phone, email, or mobile number, please let the school know, so that we have the most up-to-date contact details.



With over 14 million daily users, Discord is one of the most popular communication tools for gamers. It allows you to create or join what are known as 'servers', where different users can talk in groups via text message or voice call. There is also the option to send direct messages and make video calls.



What parents need to know about **DISCORD**



INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Your child can access almost any chat server on Discord. This means they can easily be exposed to content and conversations that are inappropriate, upsetting or potentially harmful.



SEXUAL IMAGERY

Despite there being guidelines in place to prevent it, users are able to circulate adult content. This can include sexualised images, pornographic videos and provocative discussions. It's important to stay alert and know the risks that your child could be exposed to.



RISK OF CYBERBULLYING

Interactions on the platform are largely unregulated. This means other users can easily say and show things to your child that might be offensive and upsetting. The competitive nature of gaming can lead users to make abusive and harmful remarks about your child.



HIDDEN CHARGES

Though the basic platform is free, your child will be encouraged to sign up to premium subscriptions, which give extra perks, such as animated emojis and free games. The two options are known as 'Nitro Classic' (which costs \$4.99 a month) and Nitro (which costs \$9.99 a month). Prices are only converted to pound sterling during the payment process.



RISK OF CYBERCRIME

Cybercriminal groups have been linked to reports of hackers sharing stolen data. It's also possible that your child may be encouraged to share the data of their friends, either through peer pressure, or 'for fun', without realising the consequences.



STRANGER DANGER

To create an account, you only need to display a username and profile image. This makes it easy for someone to hide his or her real identity. Predators from anywhere in the world can join a chat server, message your child and quickly leave to avoid detection. Forbes reports groomers have been targeting children susceptible to online coercion on the platform.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Top Tips to Protect Your Child



1 BEWARE OF WHAT'S SHARED

Whatever your child says or shares on the platform can be seen, heard and shared with a much larger audience. Be careful to make sure your child understands this and does not say or share anything that could be deemed offensive, harmful or put themselves or others at risk.

You can find Discord's own guide for parents here: <https://blog.discordapp.com/parents-guide-to-discord-c77d91793e9c>



2 IMPROVE SECURITY SETTINGS

To help protect your child, make sure they set strong passwords. You should consider using the 'two-factor authentication' function for extra protection. It's also important to remind your child to never to share their personal information, or the details of another user.



3 CHECK THEIR FRIEND LIST

You can restrict who is able to make 'friend requests' to your child in the 'Friends' tab. It's a good idea to deselect the default option that allows anyone to connect. Of course, you should also talk to your child about why it's a risk to allow strangers to connect with them through such platforms.



4 REPORT & BLOCK SUSPICIOUS USERS

Make sure your child knows how to report and block abusive or suspicious users. If you do find your child suffering repeated abuse, contact the platform directly using the email: abuse@discordapp.com. It's a good idea to teach your child how to screenshot any negative interactions too.



5 BEWARE OF NSFW CONTENT

Public forums on the platform are a potential venue for inappropriate content that you should be wary of. There is a Discord mascot known as 'Wumpus', which is supposed to represent anyone under 18. Anyone who posts content unsuitable for under-18s, should mark it NSFW (Not Suitable For Wumpus).



6 SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS

It's important you actively teach your child to treat other users with respect and behave online the same way as they would offline.

Take the time to read through Discord's Community Guidelines with your child. Find them at: www.discordapp.com/guidelines



7 TURN ON SAFE MESSAGING

You should encourage your child to activate the 'Safe Direct Messaging' option. This will scan and delete any direct messages sent to your child containing explicit content.



Meet our expert

Claire Woffenden has been a technology journalist since 1998 with a specialism in consumer technology (apps, websites, home computing and digital devices). As a Mum of two young children - aged 8 and 6 - Claire is passionate about helping to keep children safe online.

County Lines - Explained

What is County Lines?

County lines a form of criminal exploitation where urban gangs persuade, coerce or force children and young people to store drugs and money and/or transport them to suburban areas, market towns and coastal towns (Home Office, 2018). It can happen in any part of the UK, it is against the law as well as being a form of child abuse.

Children and young people may be criminally exploited in multiple ways. Other forms of criminal exploitation include child sexual exploitation, trafficking, gang, and knife crime.

County lines gangs are highly organised criminal networks that use sophisticated, frequently evolving techniques to groom young people and evade capture by the police. Perpetrators use children and young people to maximise profits and distance themselves from the criminal act of physically dealing drugs (National Crime agency, 2019). Young people do most of the work and take the most risk. Dedicated mobile phone lines or 'deal lines' are used to help facilitate county lines drug deals. Phones are usually cheap, disposable, and old fashioned because they are changed frequently to avoid detection by the police. Gangs use the phones to receive orders and contact young people to instruct them where to deliver drugs. This may be to a local dealer or drug user or a dealer or drug user in another county.

**Possible
indicators to
be aware of**

- Frequently going missing from school, home, or care
 - Travelling to locations, being found in areas with no obvious connections
 - Unwillingness to explain their whereabouts
 - Acquiring unaccountable money, clothes, accessories, or mobile phones
 - Receiving excessive texts or phone calls at all hours of the day
 - Having multiple mobile phone handsets or sim cards
 - Withdrawing or having sudden changes in personality, behaviour
 - Having relationships with controlling or older individuals and groups
 - Unexplained injuries, carrying weapons
 - Significant decline in school results or performance
 - Being isolated from peers or social networks
 - Associating with or being interested in gang culture
 - Self-harming or having significant changes in mental health
- (Ministry of Justice, 2019)*



Scan this QR code for more information

County lines

We need your
help to stop it

#KnowTheSigns
#CountyLines



kooth

*Online Counselling Service
for 11-25 year olds*

It is a free online counselling and emotional well-being support service providing young people in Harrow, aged 11-25 years (up to 25th birthday), with a free, safe and secure means of accessing support with their emotional health and wellbeing from a professional team of qualified counsellors.

kooth



Scan this QR code for more info about Kooth