



Safeguarding Newsletter for Families

November 2021



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Be Bright, Be Seen!



We are always mindful for the safety of our children near to roads and conscious of how vulnerable they can be. Therefore, we are sending out an important reminder to these dangers as autumn draws in and the clocks go back.

At this time of year, there is reduced visibility for drivers and pedestrians and as a result, your child can become even more vulnerable near to roads. To help raise your child's awareness of this issue, we have included a flyer below with safety tips so you can discuss with your child how important it is to be visible when near roads. We are also going to be covering this topic in school.

It emphasises how wearing brightly coloured clothing shows up well in daylight but as it gets dark, reflective clothing and accessories are far more effective in highlighting pedestrians through car headlights or street lamps.



Our school continues to participate in a national scheme called 'Operation Encompass', which is a joint partnership between Lincolnshire Police and schools. One of the principles of Operation Encompass is that all incidents of domestic abuse are shared with schools, not just those where an offence can be identified.

This system has been established to help schools provide in-school support to children who have been present at, exposed to or involved in any domestic abuse incident. We know that children can be significantly harmed, physically and/or emotionally, during these situations, and that it also negatively affects their learning and behaviour. Therefore, as part of the Operation Encompass procedure, and to help mitigate the resulting negative impact, the school receives an email from the police the morning after a child has been witness to, or involved in, any reported domestic abuse incident.

We are then able to use this information to provide the right support to any child and their family as and when it is needed.



WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging apps in the world, with more than 1.5 billion people in more than 180 countries using it to send and receive text, photos, videos and documents, as well as make voice and video calls through an Internet or Wi-Fi connection. The free app offers end-to-end encryption, which means that messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient in one-to-one chats, or all members if it is a group chat. Not even WhatsApp can read them.



AGE RESTRICTION
16+



What parents need to know about



WhatsApp



AGE LIMIT CHANGE

Since May 2018, the minimum age for using WhatsApp is 16 years old if you live in the European Union, including the UK. Prior to this, the minimum age was 13, which still applies for the rest of the world. WhatsApp has not yet stated whether it will take action against anyone aged between 13 and 16 who already hold accounts under the old terms and conditions, such as closing their account or seeking parental permission.

SCAM MESSAGES

Occasionally on WhatsApp, people receive spam messages from unauthorised third parties or from fraudsters pretending to offer prizes to 'lucky people', encouraging recipients to click on a link to win a prize. A common scam involves messages warning recipients that their WhatsApp subscription has run out with the hope that people are duped into providing their payment details. Other scam messages include instructions to forward the message in return for a reward or gift from WhatsApp or another person.

FAKE NEWS AND HOAXES

WhatsApp has been linked to enabling the spread of dangerous viral rumours. In India, for example, a number of attacks appear to have been sparked by false rumours shared on WhatsApp.

THE 'ONLY ADMIN' FEATURE AND CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying is the act of sending threatening or taunting text messages, voice messages, pictures and videos, with the aim to hurt and humiliate the receiver. The group chat and group video call features are great for multiple people to chat simultaneously, but there is the potential for people to hurt others with their comments or jokes. The 'only admin' feature gives the admin of a group chat greater control over who can send messages. Whilst this can be good for one-way announcements, the group admin has the power to block somebody from responding to an offensive message in a chat, which could result in a child being upset and unable to reply.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

To start a chat in WhatsApp, you need to know the mobile number of the contact you want to speak to and they also need to have the app downloaded. WhatsApp can find contacts by accessing the address book of a device and recognising which of those contacts are using WhatsApp. If your child has shared their mobile number with someone they don't know, they can use it to get in touch via WhatsApp.

LIVE LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp's 'Live Location' feature enables users to share their current location in real time to their contacts in a chat, allowing friends to show their movements. The feature, which can be found by pressing the 'attach' button, is described by WhatsApp as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." Location-sharing is already a common feature on other social apps, including Snapchat's Snap Map and Facebook Messenger and can be a useful way for a child to let loved ones know they are safe. However, if your child is in a group chat with people they do not know, they will be exposing their location.



**National
Online
Safety**

Top Tips for Parents



CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though somebody would need your child's phone number to add them as a contact, as an extra security measure we suggest altering their profile settings to control who can see their profile photo and status. The options to choose from are 'Everyone', 'My Contacts' and 'Nobody'. We suggest selecting 'My Contacts' or 'Nobody' to ensure their profile is protected.

EXPLAIN HOW TO BLOCK PEOPLE

If your child has received spam or offensive messages, calls or attachments from a contact, they should block them. Messages and status updates sent by a blocked contact will not show up on the phone and will stay undelivered. Blocking someone will not remove this contact from the contact list - they will need to be removed from the phone's address book. To block a contact, your child needs to open the person's chat stream and tap on the settings.

REPORT SCAM MESSAGES

Advise your child not to tap, share or forward any message that looks suspicious or sounds too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they will be given the option to report the number as spam directly inside the chat. They can also report a contact or a group as spam using the following steps: 1) Open the chat. 2) Tap on the contact or group name to open their profile information. 3) Scroll to the bottom and tap 'Report Spam'.

LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is part of a group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable or has been added to a group they don't want to be part of, use the group's settings to show them how to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once, if they leave again, they cannot be added again.

USING LIVE LOCATION SAFELY

If your child needs to use the 'Live Location' feature to share with you or a friend, advise them to only share it for the amount of time they need to. WhatsApp gives the options of either 15 minutes, one hour or eight hours. However, your child can choose to stop sharing at any time.

DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child has sent a message to the wrong chat or if a message they sent has contained a mistake, they can delete it. To do this, simply tap and hold on the message, choose 'Delete' and then 'Delete for everyone'. The app allows seven minutes to delete the message after it has been sent, but it is important to remember that recipients may have seen and screenshot a message before it was deleted.

SET TIME LIMITS

A 2017 study found that by the age of 14 the average child will have sent more than 35,000 texts, 30,000 WhatsApp messages and racked up more than three solid weeks of video chat. Although it is inevitable that your child will use technology, you can still set boundaries. This is not easy, especially since teens use their devices for both schoolwork and free time, often simultaneously.

SOURCES: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/apr/26/whatsapp-plans-to-part-until-16-the-my-story-is-how>; <https://www.whatsappbrand.com/>; <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/whatsapp-update-jail-test-india-hoaxes-forward-messages-app-downloaded-8456011.html>

Sexual harassment

OFSTED recently completed an investigation into sexual harassment in schools and colleges. After speaking to over 900 pupils of all ages, the review revealed how prevalent sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are for children and young people. The report said that for some children, incidents are so commonplace that they see no point in reporting them.

Girls told OFSTED that sexual harassment and online sexual abuse, such as being sent unsolicited explicit sexual material and being pressured to send nude pictures ('nudes'), are much more prevalent than adults realise. For example, nearly 90% of girls, and nearly 50% of boys, said being sent explicit pictures or videos of things they did not want to see happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers. The full report can be read [here](#)

What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment in general is any unwanted sexual attention that can cause physical, emotional, mental, psychological or economic harm to the victim. It can happen both online or offline.

Does this happen in primary schools?

Boys and girls mix together in every social environment, at every age and many children will never experience sexism, harassment or abuse based on gender.

It is important that we teach all children (both boys and girls), of all ages, what is acceptable interaction and what is not, and then what they must do if any unwanted attention happens to them.

The report recommended that school leaders should create a culture where sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are not tolerated, and where they identify issues and intervene early to better protect children and young people.

What do we do at Saxilby Church of England Primary School?

At Saxilby we encourage children to be open about their experiences so that they know it is always safe to disclose concerns to a trusted adult. We aim to create an environment that teaches boys and girls how to behave respectfully towards each other, and how to respect personal and physical boundaries.

Through our Relationships and Sex Education lessons, we ensure the children develop an age-appropriate awareness of this theme, including understanding how to show respect to themselves and others. If children understand their own bodies, the terminology to use and why certain words are not appropriate, they will speak more knowledgeably and respectfully to each other.

We have a very secure and thorough recording system in school where we keep records of any incidents or concerns so we can carefully monitor and build a picture. We also use the NSPCC Traffic Light Toolkit to thoroughly assess incidents to ensure we do not miss anything and to ensure we do not over respond to age appropriate development. Further information about the toolkit can be found at <https://www.enhertscg.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/Sexual-Behaviours-Traffic-Light-Tool.pdf>



5 top tips on how to **BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN**

- 1** Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
- 2** If you're out and about when it's dark, wear reflective gear to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
- 3** Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip-on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.
- 4** If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
- 5** Of course, 'Being Bright' isn't the only way to stay safer. If you're out at night, choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and remember to always use the Green Cross Code.

For more road safety tips, games and videos, visit the Tales of the Road website at www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad

**Be Bright,
Be Seen**

THINK

Our Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Catherine Stratton



Deputy Safeguarding Leads:

Alice Cowles



Designated Wider safeguarding Team:

Family Support worker:

Theresa Miller



Safeguarding Governor:

Linda Hawbrook



Contact Number for the Safeguarding Team in school

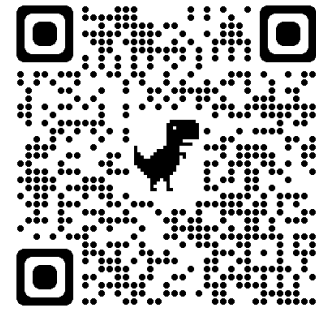
(01522) 702669

Our Updated Safeguarding Policy September 2021

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

[Link](#)

<https://www.saxilby.lincs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/LCC-School-Child-Protection-Safeguarding-Policy-v16-September-2021-FIN....pdf>



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](#),

Please keep the school informed of any changes to your contact details