

# Stoke Park Primary School—Safeguarding Newsletter

September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our first safeguarding newsletter of this academic year. The newsletter is designed to support parents in deepening their understanding of topical safeguarding issues that may affect their child, themselves or members of their local community.

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every single person who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

You will see on the right of this page information about who to speak to if you have concerns about a child's safety or welfare. You may notice that we have increased our capacity by adding two new staff members to our safeguarding team: Mrs Jelf and Mrs Dennison. Both bring lots of safeguarding experience to their role.

I will attach to each newsletter a parent information sheet about keeping children safe online. Please take the time to read these as they will help you to help your children stay safe online.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please do get in touch.

Mrs Higgitt

Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

## Spotlight on: Out of school clubs/activities



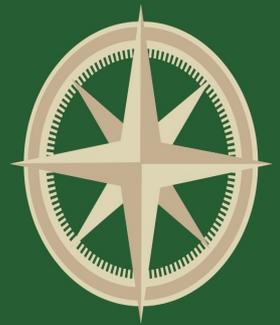
An out-of-school setting (OOSS) can mean many things, from places like community and youth centres, sports clubs, and places of worship, to individuals offering tuition in their own home, or providing one to one coaching at a playing field or local park. Fees may or may not be charged.

There is no single legal framework that governs how these settings operate, and they are not inspected or assessed by a single regulator. This means there is no single responsible body with complete oversight of these settings or the quality and safety of their provision.

As a minimum, providers of these settings should have policies on health and safety, safeguarding and child protection (including online and digital safety), and suitability of staff.

You should feel able to ask questions about the provider's activities and policies. A well-run and trustworthy provider will welcome questions. They should be willing to give this kind of information to anyone who leaves a child in their care.

The Government have released a document to support parents in asking the right questions when you sign your child up for out of school activities. The guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-safeguarding-children-in-out-of-school-settings/keeping-children-safe-during-community-activities-after-school-clubs-and-tuition-questions-to-help-parents-and-carers-choose-out-of-school-settings>



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## The Safeguarding team.

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the schools safeguarding team



Mrs Higgitt—Designated safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Mrs Lambert—Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Mrs Jelf—Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Mrs Dennison—Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Or contact **First Response** on: 01179036444



## **National Online Safety Hub**

The school now subscribes to The National Online Safety Hub. The hub contains a wealth of useful information to support schools and parents in keeping children safe online. As members of the hub, our parent community can access all the resources too. These include: Parent guides (like the one attached), explainer videos and training on how to keep your children safe online.

To access the hub and all its resources, parents simply need to follow the link below and self enrol:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/stoke-park-schools>

If you have any problems with accessing the hub, please speak to Mrs Higgitt.

## **PANTS**

Talk PANTS is a programme that helps children understand that their body belongs to them, and they should tell someone they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried. We teach the children about PANTS and consent in school but we encourage all parents to continue these conversations at home. The NSPCC website is full of useful information to support parents in having these conversations. Please follow the link below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>



## **Useful contacts:**

**First Response:** To report any safeguarding concerns. This can be done anonymously. 01179036444

**North Bristol Foodbanks (0117 9791399)** For areas covered see here: <https://northbristol.foodbank.org.uk/locations/>

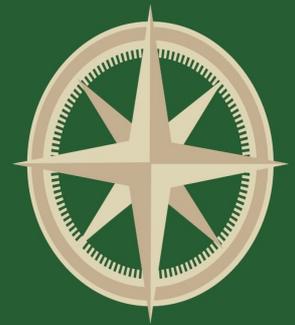
**Young Minds:** supporting children and young people's mental health

**Mind:** adult mental health support and information

**Refuge:** domestic abuse support

**Saneline:** Emotional Support: 07984 967 708 (leave name and number and someone will call you back)

**Bristol Mindline:** 0300 123 3393 (in the day); 0800 808 0330 (after 7pm)



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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# WHATSAPP

UK AND EUROPE  
**16+**  
15+ REST OF THE WORLD

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

### DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

### ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

### LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

[CLICK HERE](#)

### CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' – choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.



### EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.



### REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.



### LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.



### THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.



### DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.



### CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.



## Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



National Online Safety®

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