

Safeguarding Newsletter

ADVICE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Welcome to the first edition of our Parent Safeguarding Newsletter from the William Edwards Safeguarding Team. We aim to bring you all the latest, relevant help and advice on issues we feel may be of importance to you and your child.

WES Safeguarding Team

As you may be aware, we've recently had some changes to our team, therefore we would like to take a minute to introduce ourselves.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

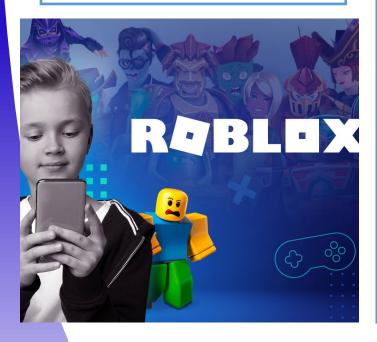
Ms Wood

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss Pooley

Other members of the Safeguarding team include;

Mrs Cormack, Mr Greenwood, Mrs Heighway, Mr O'kill, Mr Pavitt & Mrs Taylor.



Rise in Teenage Vaping

Vaping among secondary-school children has seen a sharp increase with an NHS survey reporting that nearly one in ten teens are using e-cigarettes.

Children are being targeted by e-cigarette companies with bright packaging, exotic flavours, and attractive sounding names.

Online Challenges

We are hearing more and more reports of online challenges popping up on social media platforms. While not all pose potential risk, it is important as a parent/carer and guardian to know how to handle an online challenge you may be concerned about.

What are Online Challenges?

Online challenges are social media trends where people take part in or games, activities or dares. They typically originate on social media platforms e.g TikTok, YouTube, Instagram and more recently, Roblox, before spreading to other platforms.

Advice for parents

Talking to your child about online challenges can seem daunting, especially if they don't come to you on their own. Having an honest conversation with your child about their online habits is the best way to clear up confusions.

The latest online challenge that we have been made aware of is on the platform Roblox and is called 'The Game'. Online reports suggest that this viral challenge is an alleged self-harm 'game', shared via word documents in group chats.

Safer Schools gives the following advice to parents and carers; Discuss online behaviour and harmful content with your child. Do not directly reference 'The Game' unless your child mentions it, this could encourage them to seek it out. Remind them about online safety, not sharing personal details and reporting any harmful content to a trusted adult.



If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

Meet Our Expert
Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming jindustry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss — and what they should never tell a stranger online — will help them understand how to communicate with other people online safely.



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