Beechwood
JUNIOR SCHOOL
Together we can!

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Safeguarding Newsletter

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Hello and welcome back to our monthly safeguarding newsletter. This month, we are focussing on online and digital safety and how this can put children in danger when not used safely.

We are sharing the 'Our Safer Schools' alert to schools which has raised concerns regarding a WhatsApp group known as 'Add Everyone.' Schools and regional police forces across the UK have warned that this group exposes children and young people to explicit and harmful material.

'Add Everyone' group chats can go by many names, but their purpose is often the same. These WhatsApp groups are spaces where children are invited to join a chat that contains content such as sexual images, material promoting self-harm, sexual violence, racism and other inappropriate content. These chats may be created by adults seeking to connect with younger users or by young people themselves as a seemingly fun activity. It is difficult to control who becomes a member of these groups, which means that access to children and young people can easily fall into the wrong hands.

WhatsApp has lowered its minimum age from 16 to 13 this year and the risk of children encountering inappropriate content and adults has increased. Reports indicate that these groups have targeted children as young as 9.
For more information, please refer to our website or click here for

We want to hear from you! If ever you have any questions, concerns or updates in relation to safeguarding, please reach out to a Designated Safeguarding Lead in school either by using the email above or popping into the office.

Miss Westron
Lead DSL

Mrs Phillips
Deputy DSL

Mrs Street
Deputy DSL

Mrs Furby
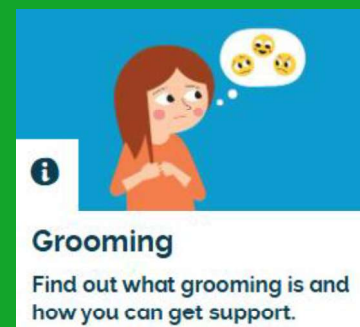Deputy DSL

ChildLine
0800 1111

Spotlight Support:

Each issue we signpost a different support area for you or your child to go to if needing to access a particular type of help or signposting.

This month, we will focus on Childline's 'Grooming' support page for understanding what this is, how it happens and how to get help.

Click the image to be taken to Childline's page for information or use some of the tools for advice and help to support you and your child in keeping safe online:

Grooming
Find out what grooming is and how you can get support.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College's #WakeUpWednesday aims to equip every trusted adult with the knowledge and skills they need to keep up with the latest information, implement best practice and heighten their awareness of issues around the core topics of online safety and mental health & wellbeing.

This month, we are highlighting #WakeUpWednesday's free E-guide for parents and carers for support and tips for supporting children in understanding **Online Grooming**. This free guide explains how children are the most vulnerable, the concerns around live streaming, open and closed messaging, how groomers forge emotional attachments with their victims AND safety tips for parents and carers.

Online Grooming is when someone befriends and builds an emotional relationship with a child and communicates with them through the internet with the intent to commit a sexual offence. This type of victimisation can take place across any platform; from social media and messaging apps to online gaming and live streaming. Often it involves young people being tricked, forced or pressured into doing something they wouldn't normally do and often the groomer's goal is to meet the victim in a controlled setting to sexually or physically abuse them, or use them or their personal information fraudulently for their gain. Click the link to find out more!

Are you up to date on SnapChat?

Dr Claire Sutherland (Online Safety Consultant) has created this online safety guide which examines Snapchat's latest features, including AI tools, Snap Map, and subscription content, as well as the potential risks they pose to young users, from screen addiction to sextortion.

With over 900 million monthly users, Snapchat continues to be a favourite among children and young people; however, with its ever-evolving features, the risks have evolved too. From AI-generated filters and chatbots, to disappearing messages and the Snap Map location-sharing tool, it's easy for children to stumble into unsafe territory. This guide breaks down the latest updates, including the Lens+ subscription service, and web browser access.

Dr Sutherland has also unpacked the risks of sextortion scams, overuse, and inappropriate content that may slip through the app's moderation systems.

With expert advice, this guide is a must-read for anyone helping young people navigate Snapchat responsibly and confidently.

Whether you want to report child abuse and neglect or are worried about a child and not sure what to, we have advice for you. Don't wait until you're certain: if you have any concerns or suspicions, contact us or use the NSPCC website as soon as possible.