

Safeguarding Newsletter

December 2022

Why have a Newsletter?

Safeguarding & Child Protection is such an important issue for our children and young people that we have decided to have a half termly newsletter that shares key information and advice with parents and carers so that we can all work together with the same aim of keeping children safe in school, at home and in the wider community. Safeguarding relates to many areas of life at Rivers including; children's physical health and safety, mental health issues, attendance, managing medical conditions, internet safety, substance misuse, bullying, the dangers of radicalisation, child sexual exploitation, gang culture, FGM, neglect, domestic violence, forced marriages, sex and relationships education, British Values and road safety among other issues. At Rivers we feel it is vital to work with our parents and with the high quality agencies that support schools and young people so that we can offer a safe environment that allows children to be aware of the risks they may face and how to respond to them.. We hope that our school curriculum gives children opportunities to explore many of these issues in a safe situation—through; PSHEE, SRE, Assemblies, Deep learning days, Educational visits, Academic Mentoring and external visitors. Children with the knowledge, under-standing and the right tools to make safe choices.

Meet the DSL Team:



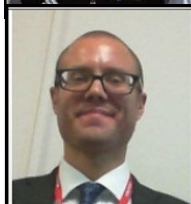
Mrs Franklin - Director of Safeguarding



Miss Joseph - Deputy Director of Safeguarding



Mrs Khara - Designated Safeguarding Lead (Associate Vice Principal)



Mr Homer - Principal (DSL)



Mrs Johnson - Scott - Interim Associate Principal (DSL)



Miss Llewellyn - SENCO (DSL)

Cyberbullying/ESafety

Cyber bullying is any form of bullying which takes place online or through smartphones and tablets—adults and children can be victims of this form of bullying so we have to be vigilant. The impact of this bullying can be wide reaching from feeling frightened and intimidated, being the victim of fake gossip or rumours, having photos or videos posted about you, being on the receiving end of language that causes offence and an argument (flaming), threatening behaviour etc. In addition, people with malicious intent can use the internet for grooming of young and vulnerable people, fraud, stalk-ing, exclusion, blackmail etc. The internet and social media can be fun and can bring many educational and personal benefits but adults and children alike must protect themselves from misuse. A useful source of information for parents can be found on our website: [Annual Bullying Strategy](#)

Age restrictions for social media platforms:

Do you know what your child is doing online? Are you routinely talking to your child and checking what internet sites they are accessing?

It is very important to monitor and teach your child some key internet safety rules (and to role model them as adults helps)...

- 1) Avoid posting any personal information online – like your address, email address or mobile number
- 2) Think carefully before posting pictures or videos of yourself. Once you've put a picture of yourself online most people can see it—is it a photo you would want everyone to see?
- 3) Keep your privacy settings as high as possible (parents can help you)
- 4) Never give out your passwords (except to your parents if they want to check your accounts to keep you safe)
- 5) Don't befriend people you do not know
- 6) Do not meet up with people you've met online. Speak to your parent or carer about people suggesting you do
- 7) Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are—adults sometimes pretend to be children to make friends with you online
- 8) Think carefully about what you say before you post something online
- 9) Respect other people's views, even if you don't agree with someone else's views doesn't mean you need to be rude—

sometimes it is better not to comment than to get into an argument

10) Use parental safety software/apps to block inappropriate internet use and monitor your children's online activity

12) Ensure that the online games your child wants to play are appropriate to their age

11) If you see something online that If you see something online that makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried: leave the website and tell a trusted adult immediately. Keep your webcam covered up when not in use.

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?



Sourced from NSPCC website October 2019