SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER TERM 3

Welcome to Issue 2 of our safeguarding newsletter. It aims to keep you updated with essential information regarding safeguarding topics and inform you on how we keep your children safe in school.

Please remember that if you ever have a safeguarding concern regarding your child, or indeed another child, you can always speak to any member of staff or a member of our school's safeguarding team.

In this issue we will explore how to keep children safe online and highlight some of issues facing parents/carers today.

Internet Safety

The online world is rapidly developing and many of our children now have access to devices which enable them to connect to the Internet, take images or videos and communicate with others. While it is important not to obstruct them from developing skills from using these devices, it is essential that parents support their children in navigating the online world. We recently held a parent/carer workshop - all the resources can be found here.

A Guide to Online Safety and Gaming

As a new generation of young people arrive onto using multiplayer games and the internet in general this new year, it is more important than ever to make your pupils aware of how to stay safe online. The SWGfL has published a pamphlet on how to best keep safe whilst using online software and games. With advice on reporting and blocking, online socialization and the considerations on online gaming, the pamphlet can be a useful resource for any teaching staff, giving lessons on the topic. You can find a link to that resource below:

https://swgfl.org.uk/assets/documents/online-safety-and-gaming.pdf

Child Safety and the Metaverse

Christmas has now come to a close and a new year has begun. As pupils and staff return to school, the annual playground inquisition will begin. Among their peer group young people will begin to discuss what they got for Christmas. For many the answer will almost certainly be 'a Fortnite battle pass, a new PC, a PlayStation 5 etc'.

All devices which allow both unfettered access to the internet and expose children to voice chat, text chat and photo sharing with complete strangers. This year presents an acceleration of vulnerability window as, VR headsets, connected to Facebook's Metaverse have been released onto the marketplace. The Metaverse seeks to link users to the internet as a Virtual Entity through the use of Virtual Reality Headsets.

This amplifies the danger children are exposed to online. Over the coming months it will be vital for DSL's to understand these Christmas gifts and the issues linked to them. To help you understand this new, fast changing issue the NSPCC has published a guide to both the Metaverse and VR headsets. To find out more please follow the link:

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2022/christmas-vr-safety-advice-for-parents-metaverse/

Keeping your child safe means:

- The health and safety of all children;
- Making sure that the adults who work here have undergone safety and security checks;
- Protecting children from deliberate harm;
- Being an anti-bullying school;
- Being proactive against racist behaviour;
- Protecting our children from harassment and discrimination;
- A positive approach to behaviour management including the use of physical intervention safely, when necessary;
- Meeting the needs of children with medical conditions;
- Providing first aid;
- Children enjoying safe educational visits;
- Caring for children's personal needs;
- Keeping children safe when using the internet;
- Making sure our school is secure and safe;
- Listening to children

All of our staff at Barrs Court have regular safeguarding training updates. Safeguarding is also part of our induction programme for new staff.

Safeguarding Team

The school has a Safeguarding Team who oversees all areas of school life. You can talk to any of them if you have concerns about your child or about another child. The Safeguarding Team are:

Kay Cook

Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Daniel Webster

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Katie Warlow

Deputy Safeguarding Lead

The Safeguarding Team oversee and coordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe. They regularly attend training to ensure that skills and knowledge are up to date, and that they are able to then effectively train the school staff.

The school's new Safeguarding Policy is on the website and sets out in more detail the full range of areas that are covered. Many areas of school life overlap into safeguarding, and other school policies that support this are:

Anti-Bullying

Bullying is not acceptable in any form and this includes information about how the school deals with any incidents of bullying.

Attendance

The importance of attending school regularly and the impact that this will have on children's life chances

Behaviour Policy

A child's behaviour is often an indication when something is not right, or if something is worrying them

Safer Recruitment

The importance of making sure that all the adults that are employed in school are appropriate and are safe to work with children

Staff Code of Conduct

Clearly sets out our expectations about how staff keep themselves and the children safe

Health and Safety Policy

Ensuring that the site is kept safe at all times

Educational Visit Policy

Ensuring that when children are off-site, the same expectations about their safety apply

Online Safety Policy

In a world where so much is done online it is crucial that children know how to keep themselves safe online, and this policy is continually updated to reflect the current situation.

More information can be found on the school website about safeguarding and future issues of the Safeguarding newsletters will address specific topics. If you have any queries, or would like to speak to anyone about safeguarding, then don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of the school's Safeguarding Team.

'Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, every day'.