REDWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

WELCOME

Dear parents and carers, welcome to the Parent Safeguarding newsletter. We hope that you find the information included in this newsletter useful. Should you require any further information, please speak to our very friendly safeguarding team.

Aims:

This safeguarding newsletter is aimed to enhance parental vigilance concerning child safety. It seeks to provide essential information on recognising signs of potential harm, particularly amidst the rising concerns of online abuse. Our goal is to empower parents and carers with knowledge and strategies for safeguarding children effectively, and knowing where to find help and support should it ever be needed.

Our Safeguarding Team



Mrs Shepherd
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Kinder
Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Ms Nicholson
Deputy Safeguarding Lead

If you have an urgent concern out of school hours, you can contact the safeguarding team by emailing safeguarding@redwood.derby.sch.uk

SAFEGUARDING TOPICS COVERED IN SCHOOL THIS MONTH:

- Deep fakes
- Filtering and monitoring
- Misinformation/Disinformation
- Relationship & Sex Education

Our objective is to explore a diverse range of Safeguarding topics each month through various channels, including: whole school and class assemblies; PSHE and RSE curriculum; computing lessons in conjunction with our Digital Leaders; School Council and through consistent signage and posters displayed around the school.

WHERE TO GET HELP OVER THE HOLIDAYS

At Redwood Primary School, safeguarding our children goes far beyond the school day and does not stop during the school holidays. While school may be closed, we remain committed to supporting our families and ensuring that children stay safe. If you have a safeguarding concern during the holidays, please contact the school via our safeguarding email address: **safeguarding@redwood.derby.sch.uk** . This inbox is monitored and concerns will be responded to as appropriate.

There are also a number of agencies available to offer advice, support and guidance if you are worried about a child or family. If a child is in immediate danger, always call 999.

Derby City Children's Social Care (First Response Team)
📞 01332 641172 (Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm)
Derby City Careline (Out of Hours Service)
📞 01332 956606 (Evenings, weekends and bank holidays)
Derbyshire Children's Services (Starting Point)
📞 01629 533190
NSPCC Helpline
📞 0808 800 5000 – for adults who are concerned about a child and would like advice and support.

Remember, if something doesn't feel right, it is always better to share your concerns. Together, we can help keep children safe.

GOVERNMENT BANS SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UNDER 16S

The UK government will ban social media for under 16s. Alongside this, certain harmful features on other online services like livestreaming and strangers contacting children will be restricted for under 18s

From Spring 2027, under-16s will no longer be able to use certain social media.
Children will still be able to go online safely, for learning, news, games and staying in touch with friends and family.
This is about reducing harm, improving wellbeing and giving young people more time for a healthier childhood.

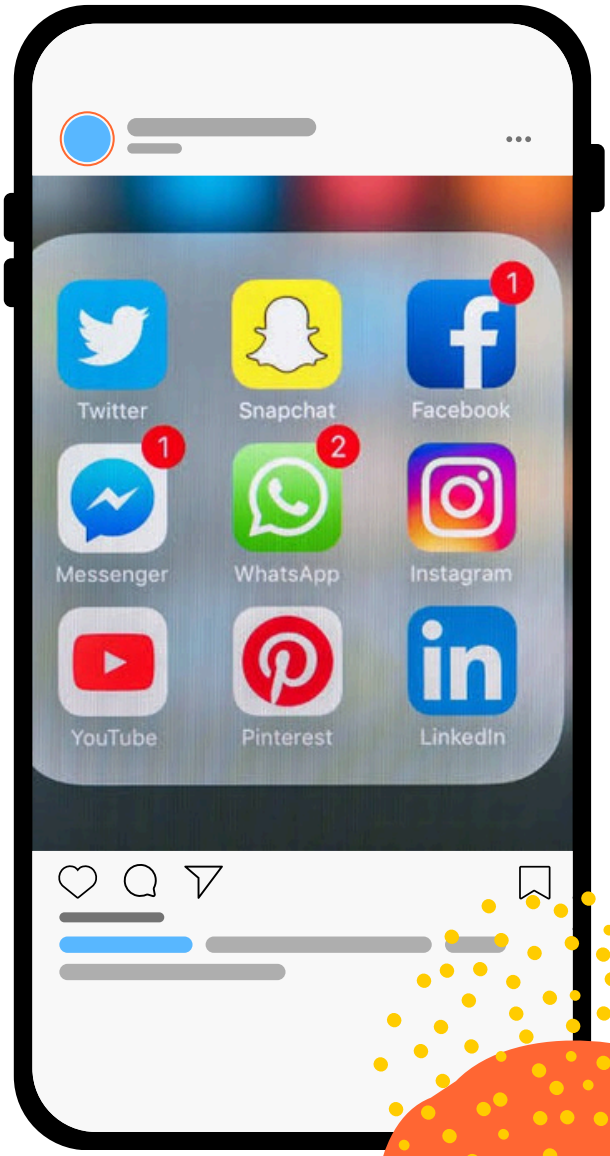
HOW WILL AGE VERIFICATION WORK?

The government recognises that any age-checking system needs to be practical, accessible and fair for everyone. For this reason, there will be a range of ways for users to verify their age online rather than a single method.
Over the coming months, Ofcom will provide further guidance on the different forms of age verification that online platforms may use. These methods will be designed to accurately and reliably determine whether a user is over the age of 16, while also ensuring that systems are fair, secure and easy to use.
More details about how these checks will work in practice are expected to be released as the new rules are developed.

"Children will be given back their childhoods thanks to government action to ban social media platforms from offering services to under-16s, with less time for scrolling and more time for play."

WHAT ABOUT EDUCATIONAL CONTENT ON SITES LIKE YOUTUBE - WILL THIS BE COVERED BY A BAN?

The government has made it clear that the internet remains an important part of children's education and learning. Any proposed restrictions are not intended to affect educational websites, learning platforms, or online tools that schools use to support teaching and homework.
Instead, the focus is on helping to protect children under the age of 16 from harmful content and potentially risky features commonly found on some social media platforms.
The aim is to create a safer online environment for young people while still allowing them to access the educational resources they need.
The government is also encouraging technology companies to develop online spaces specifically designed for children, where learning, creativity and positive experiences are prioritised, and where appropriate safeguards are in place to reduce exposure to harmful content.
As always, parents and carers play a vital role in helping children stay safe online by talking regularly about internet use, setting appropriate boundaries, and monitoring the platforms their children access.



KNIFE CRIME

We know it can be tricky to start the conversation about knife crime with your children or any young people you're close to, but it can be vital to do so.

Signs that a young person might be carrying a knife include:

- Withdrawn from family and school
- Change in behaviour
- Skipping school

- Sudden change in friendship groups
- Staying out late
- Missing kitchen knives

- Being secretive and defensive, particularly about what may be in their bag or bedroom

If your child is carrying a knife, it may not be because they're looking for trouble. Peer pressure, social media and exploitation by gangs can make young people feel they should protect themselves. Trying to understand why your child is behaving the way they are can help you work out how to support them.

There are also a number of resources which could help you as a responsible adult:

The Ben Kinsella Trust offer a range of resources and training opportunities for parents: Resources for parents and carers | The Ben Kinsella Trust

The Violence Reduction Alliance, alongside the Ben Kinsella Trust, have created a guide for parents and carers on knife crime harm: Guide for Parents and Carers on Knife Harm - Violence Reduction Alliance

The Derby and Derbyshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) have some helpful and educational resources and documents: Resources - Violence Reduction Unit - Derby and Derbyshire

https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/feelings-behaviour/safety-wellbeing/child-knife-crime/

In Derbyshire, the police have three permanent knife bins:

- **Chesterfield Police Station**
- **St Mary's Wharf Police Station**
- **Buxton Police Station**

Types of exploitation

Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of a child for their own profit or gain. It can take different forms.

Child criminal exploitation

When a child is manipulated or pressured to take part in criminal activity, including selling drugs. This is sometimes called county lines.

Child sexual exploitation

A type of sexual abuse where someone is coerced, manipulated or pressured into sexual activity online or offline. This might be in exchange for gifts, affection, money or social status.

Both types of exploitation can be hard for a child to recognise and they may not understand that they are being coerced. They may think they are working or in a relationship. Or they might enjoy the attention and the feeling of belonging.

WHAT SHOULD I DO AS A PARENT/CARER?

Derbyshire Constabulary

Most young people don't want to carry or use a knife. But some may carry a weapon because they're afraid of others carrying one. Knife crime can also be a direct result of drug dealing and gang turf wars.

You may be worried if you've seen stories about young people and knives in the news. There is support available if you need it, and some things you can do to help your child.

Create space for open conversation

Have open and honest conversations with your child about what they think and feel. They may not want to talk, but don't force the conversation. Let them know you're there for them if they need you. This way they'll be more likely to speak up if they do get into any trouble.

Listen to any worries your child has. It can help to:

get to the point, but avoid instilling fear or being angry

give them the facts – the Ben Kinsella Trust has a learning zone for young people

watch an age appropriate knife crime documentary or film together and then talk about it after

see if there's someone they trust, like a family member, that they would feel happy speaking to help them understand the consequences of carrying a knife

Set some boundaries

Putting boundaries in place within the home can help your child understand what behaviour is acceptable. Setting standards early means your child is less likely to follow standards set by others.

Be aware of where your child is when they go out, and who they're with. Show an interest in their friends without putting pressure on them to tell you everything. Get to know your child's friends and invite them over.

Find ways to help your child connect with others in their community, so they have positive interactions with those around them. Help them understand what makes good friends and positive relationships.

Help them stay safe

Think about putting a safety plan in place, without making it too formal. You can:

make sure your child always has a phone on them, and the phone has credit

let them know they should call 999 if they are being threatened or in danger

check they have enough money to get home, or arrange a lift

talk through scenarios that worry your child, and how they could get out of those situations

ensure your child is aware of their surroundings

help them learn to listen to their gut if they feel worried or bad about a situation

tell them to avoid going anywhere with people they don't know

ask them to let you know if they move somewhere different from where they said they would be

If you or your child are in immediate danger, call 999.

NSPCC

Get help if you're worried about a child.

Phone 0808 800 5000, 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

Email to help@NSPCC.org.uk

Report abuse on the NSPCC website

Fearless (part of Crime Stoppers)

Young people can report crime anonymously.

Phone 0800 555 111 any time of day or night.

Report a crime on the Fearless website

SafeCall

Helpline for families affected by a missing child, county lines and criminal exploitation.

Phone or text 116 000, any day from 9am to 11pm.

SafeCall website

The Mix

Advice and support for children and young people under 25.

Text THEMIX to 85258 for crisis support any time day or night.

The Mix website

Radicalisation: When someone is persuaded or influenced to adopt extreme views that could put themselves or others at risk.

Extremism: Beliefs or actions that encourage hatred, violence or intolerance towards others.

EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION

Why is this important to me as a parent?

Radicalisation and recruitment of young people to extremist causes is an increasing concern. Any child could be vulnerable to extremist narratives, although there are factors which can make some children more vulnerable than others.

As a parent, you need to be aware that individuals and groups with extremist views use the internet and social media to spread their ideologies. Children spend a lot of time online, and this has made them more susceptible to extremism.

As children spend more time online, they are increasingly exposed to a wide range of information, opinions and influences. While most online experiences are positive, some content can promote harmful or extreme views. Having regular, open conversations at home about what children are seeing, hearing and sharing online can help them to think critically, ask questions and know where to go if something makes them feel uncomfortable or worried.

By working together, families and schools can help children develop the confidence and skills they need to stay safe, make positive choices and respect the views and differences of others.

What might extremist behaviour look like?

Most children will never experience extremism, but it is helpful for parents to be aware of some possible warning signs. These do not automatically mean a child is being radicalised, but they may indicate that they need support or someone to talk to.

Examples may include:

- Repeating extreme views that encourage hatred or violence towards individuals or groups.
- Believing that violence is the only way to solve problems or achieve change.
- Becoming secretive about online activity or who they are communicating with.
- Spending increasing amounts of time accessing harmful online content that promotes hatred or division.
- Refusing to listen to different opinions or showing increasing intolerance towards others because of their race, religion, disability, gender or other protected characteristics.
- Suddenly becoming involved with groups or individuals who encourage harmful or hateful beliefs.
- Isolating themselves from family or friends in favour of people who promote extreme ideas.

What might the signs of radicalisation look like?

There is no single route to radicalisation. However, there are some behavioural traits that could indicate a child has been exposed to radicalising influences. Radicalisation in children can happen over a long period of time. In some cases it is triggered by a specific incident or news item and can happen much quicker. Sometimes there are clear warning signs of radicalisation, in other cases the changes are less obvious. As children grow, it is normal for their behaviour, friendships and interests to change. Most of these changes are a natural part of growing up. However, if you notice significant changes in your child's behaviour, attitudes or friendship groups, it is worth having open conversations with them and seeking support if you have any concerns. Working together, families and schools can help keep children safe.

The following behaviours listed here are intended as a guide to help you identify possible radicalisation:

Outward appearance:

- Becoming increasingly argumentative
- Refusing to listen to different points of view
- Unwilling to engage with students who are different
- Becoming abusive to students who are different
- Embracing conspiracy theories
- Feeling persecuted
- Changing friends and appearance
- Distancing themselves from old friends
- No longer doing things they used to enjoy
- Converting to a new religion
- Being secretive and reluctant to discuss their whereabouts
- Sympathetic to extremist ideologies and groups

Educate Against Hate

Online behaviour:

- Changing online identity
- Having more than one online identity
- Spending a lot of time online or on the phone
- Accessing extremist online content
- Joining or trying to join an extremist organisation

ACT Early

A confidential service offering advice if you are worried that someone may be vulnerable to radicalisation. It includes practical guidance for parents, information about warning signs and advice on starting conversations with your child.
Telephone: 0800 011 3764 (free and confidential)

GOV.UK – Get help if you're worried about someone being radicalised

Government guidance explaining what radicalisation is, how the Prevent programme works, and what support is available for families.

Educate Against Hate

Provides trusted advice for parents on keeping children safe from extremism and radicalisation, including online safety tips and conversation guides.

If you are concerned about your own child, you can also speak to your child's school. Schools have trained safeguarding staff who can listen to your concerns, offer advice and signpost you to the right support.
If someone is in immediate danger or you believe there is an immediate risk to life, always call 999.

Every child is different, and small changes in behaviour are usually nothing to worry about. However, if something doesn't feel quite right or you notice changes that concern you, trust your instincts. Taking an interest in your child's friendships, online activity and the people they spend time with can help you spot any worries early and ensure they get the right support if needed.

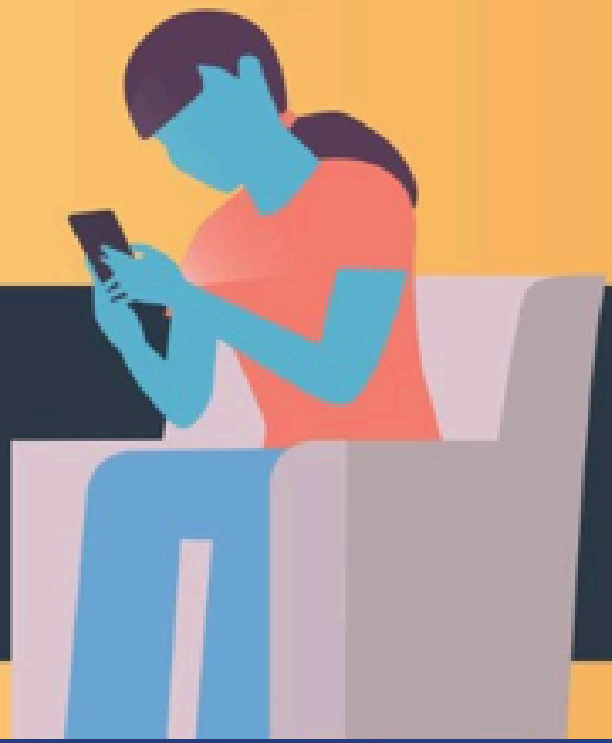
Are you worried that someone you know is being radicalised?

Prevent intervenes early to guide people away from radicalisation, giving them the help they need to walk away from extremism:

- Mentoring and ideological interventions
- Mental health support such as counselling
- Education or career development support
- Online safety training for parents

The Programme:

- deals with all forms of radicalisation, including the extreme right-wing and Islamist
- is delivered by local experts, including local authorities, police, teachers, healthcare staff and community organisations
- isn't a punishment and won't show up on any criminal record checks



Get help if you're worried about someone being radicalised, visit **GOV.UK/PREVENT**