

# SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

## 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.

## SAFEGUARDING TOPICS COVERED IN SCHOOL THIS MONTH:

- Bonfire Night Safety and Animals
- Road Safety Week
- Anti-Bullying Week
- Calling Emergency Services

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.

## Our Safeguarding Team



Mrs Dingle  
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](mailto:safeguarding@redwood.derby.sch.uk)

## DSL (DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD)

As you may have read in our school newsletter, Mrs Dingle is retiring at Christmas, and we would like to wish her the very best for her retirement. Mrs Dingle has held numerous responsibilities during her time at Redwood, but she has been our Designated Safeguarding Lead for many years, working tirelessly to support our pupils and their families. From January 2026, Mrs Shepherd will be assuming the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead, for the time being.

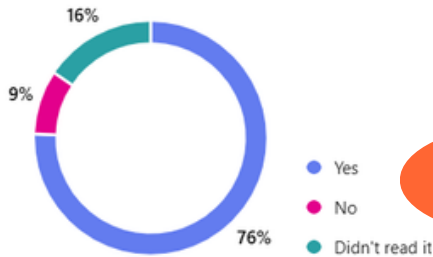


Mrs Dingle  
Deputy Headteacher

# SAFEGUARDING PARENT SURVEY

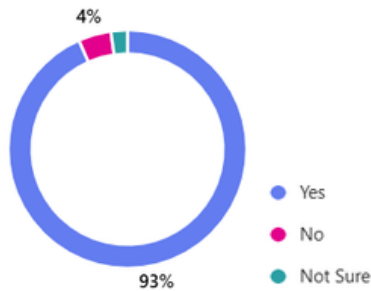
Thank you to all who participated in the survey regarding last month's newsletter. Your feedback is invaluable to us, and we are committed to enhancing our practices to better reflect your opinions. Below is a brief summary of the insights gathered from the survey.

Did you find the new Safeguarding Newsletter (which was posted on Class Dojo recently) useful?



76% of parents and carers found the new newsletters useful. If there are any topics you believe would be beneficial for the next safeguarding newsletter, please speak to Mrs Taylor.

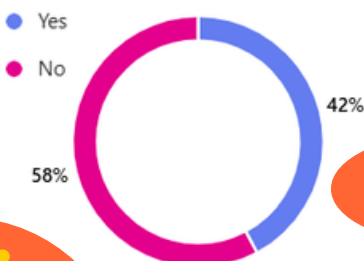
Do you believe your child/children are safe at our school?



What information would you like to see in future Safeguarding Newsletters?



Do you know how school address lockdown procedures?



Please see last month's newsletter for information regarding the lockdown procedures. If you require further details, please speak to a senior leader who will be able to provide you with additional information and our lockdown procedures policy.

# SOCIAL MEDIA DANGERS

As adults we talk about the 'online' world... but for children, it's simply The World. From watching videos, playing games or getting creative, the internet can be a great part of children's everyday life. But it can also come with risks and worries. Here are 4 top tips to help keep your child safe online: 🗣️ Watch and play together ⌚ Set gentle screen time routines 🗣️ Talk about what they're seeing 🌳 Make time for offline play For more tips and info, search NSPCC Online Wellbeing 📄 [nspcc.org.uk/OnlineWellbeing](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/OnlineWellbeing)

- There has been an increase in 3-5-year-olds using social media platforms: Over the past few years, there has been an increase in parents of 3-5-year-olds who say their child uses social media apps or sites.
- More children are watching livestreamed videos, a growing trend over the past three years: This year, two-thirds (66%) of 3-17s watch livestreamed videos, up from 63% in 2023 and 58% in 2022. The increase this year has been driven by 8-12-year-olds.
- Of the 8 in 10 (79%) of 3-17s who have their own profile on a social media, messaging, VSP or livestreaming site, 16% include a photo of themselves which anyone can see.
- Sixteen per cent of 3-17s livestream their own videos: This increases to 21% of 13-17s and is more common among children living in urban areas.

Research collected and published by OFCOM

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/siteassets/resources/documents/research-and-data/media-literacy-research/children/childrens-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2025/childrens-media-literacy-report-2025.pdf?v=396621>

**3-5**

19% have their own mobile phone  
85% use any device to go online.  
To go online: 69% use a tablet, 34% use a mobile phone, and 12% use a laptop

56% use messaging sites/apps  
91% use video sharing platforms  
49% use live streaming sites/apps  
37% use social media and 60% have their own social media profile

Across these categories the top 3 sites/apps used by this age group are Youtube (85%), WhatsApp (31%) and Snapchat (23%)

31% play games online  
76% watch TV or films on any type of device other than a TV set (77% on a TV set)  
32% watch live TV | 77% watch SVoD (Such as Netflix, Amazon Prime or Disney+)

**6-7**

30% have their own mobile phone  
96% use any device to go online.  
To go online: 80% use a tablet, 48% use a mobile phone, and 26% use a laptop

57% use messaging sites/apps  
94% use video sharing platforms  
48% use live streaming sites/apps  
36% use social media and 63% have their own social media profile

Across these categories the top 3 sites/apps used by this age group are Youtube (91%), WhatsApp (33%) and TikTok(30%)

43% play games online  
78% watch TV or films on any type of device other than a TV set (83% on a TV set)  
38% watch live TV | 76% watch SVoD (Such as Netflix, Amazon Prime or Disney+)

**8-9**

42% have their own mobile phone  
97% use any device to go online.  
To go online: 73% use a tablet, 51% use a mobile phone, and 37% use a laptop

74% use messaging sites/apps  
96% use video sharing platforms  
61% use live streaming sites/apps  
57% use social media and 69% have their own social media profile

Across these categories the top 3 sites/apps used by this age group are Youtube (93%), WhatsApp (46%) and TikTok (42%)

65% play games online  
80% watch TV or films on any type of device other than a TV set (85% on a TV set)  
41% watch live TV | 74% watch SVoD (Such as Netflix, Amazon Prime or Disney+)

**10-12**

82% have their own mobile phone  
100% use any device to go online.  
To go online: 81% use a mobile phone, 68% use a tablet, and 48% use a laptop

94% use messaging sites/apps  
99% use video sharing platforms  
73% use live streaming sites/apps  
81% use social media and 86% have their own social media profile

Across these categories the top 3 sites/apps used by this age group are Youtube (90%), WhatsApp (71%) and TikTok (63%)

77% play games online  
79% watch TV or films on any type of device other than a TV set (87% on a TV set)  
41% watch live TV | 77% watch SVoD (Such as Netflix, Amazon Prime or Disney+)

Did you know apps are designed to keep you hooked?



## 4 top tips to help keep your child safe online:

Watch and play together

Set gentle screen time routines

Talk about what they're seeing

Make time for offline play



Set screen time routines together

Talk about what they're doing online



Encourage breaks and outdoor play

Keep the conversation going

Say if anything has made you feel upset

Play and be kind online

Ask before you try something new online

Protect your personal information



## HOW ARE CHILDREN EXPOSED TO ONLINE HARM?

There are many ways children and young people could see harmful content online. Online platforms use algorithms which suggest new content based on what is popular or what users have previously interacted with. This means that suggested content can quickly lead children and young people to content that may not be age-appropriate.

Children and young people may also come across content **accidentally**, when doing something else online. They might be sent harmful content by others. Or they might actively seek it out – for example, if they are exploring their sexuality online they may come across harmful and age or stage-inappropriate content.

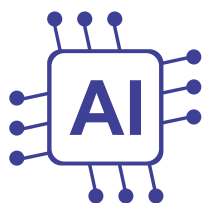
## THE IMPACT OF ONLINE HARMS

It's important to remember that all children and young people are different and what's harmful to one child may not be to another. The impact of online harms can depend on factors including the child's age, stage and maturity.

Experiencing harmful content can have a negative impact on children's wellbeing. They may feel:

- scared for their own, or others', safety
- confused or worried
- upset or uncomfortable
- excited or view the content as harmless
- compelled to share the content.

Children's and young people's behaviour, opinions and beliefs can also be influenced by harmful content.



## WHAT MIGHT MY CHILD BE SEEING ONLINE?

Children and young people may be exposed to or engage with many types of harmful content online. Some harmful content is illegal, like **child sexual abuse images or content promoting terrorism**. Other material might not be illegal but can still cause children harm, such as content promoting **eating disorders**. Content might be harmful to children and young people because it isn't age or stage appropriate. It may be overly influential, **causing children to develop unrealistic expectations for themselves or others**.

Harmful content may be user-generated or created using Artificial Intelligence (AI). There is increasing evidence that AI is being used to generate indecent images of children (IWF, 2023; UCKIS, 2023). Child sexual abuse images are illegal in the UK, regardless of how it is produced.

## HOW TO SUPPORT CHILDREN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED ONLINE HARM

Whether a child has sought out the content intentionally or come across it accidentally, you should always offer them support.

Remember, if a child or young person has actively sought out the content, this may indicate there's another concern in the young person's life.

Depending on the type of harmful content a child or young person has seen, you should:

- help them understand or process what they've seen
- answer questions or allay fears or worries
- make sure they have a safe space to talk in the future, if needed, rather than sharing harmful content with friends
- support them to block or report content to stop them encountering it again
- consider how you can help them to stay safe online in future
- make sure they know who to get help from if they ever see anything that's worrying or upsetting
- provide support for any underlying issues

# RECOMMENDED APPS



YouTube continues to be universally popular, and the appeal of other social media platforms increases with age. YouTube is the most-used app or site across all ages of children in our study, which has been the case consistently over recent years, with 88% of 3-17s using it in 2024 and in both the two preceding years.

However, YouTube operates using algorithms that keep users online for as long as possible, potentially exposing them to harmful online materials. You may think that apps like YouTube are harmless because children are not necessarily interacting with members of the public, but this is where we are mistaken.

YouTube also has a specially designed age-appropriate app called 'YouTube Kids', where a parent or carer needs to set up the types of videos to which children will be exposed.

<https://www.youtubekids.com/>



## Sign in with a parent's account

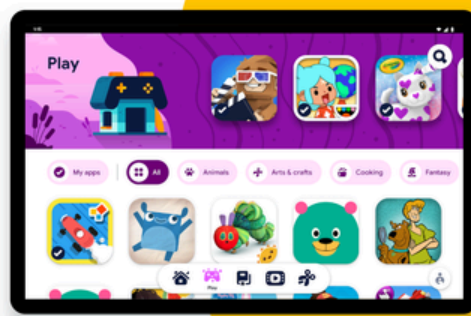
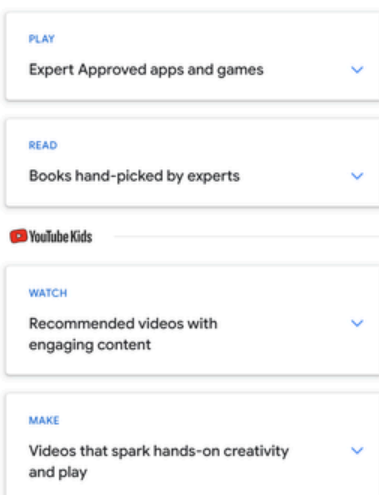
Now you can sign in and create a profile for each child.

If you choose to sign in, you'll get more controls, whether you want to allow lots of videos or hand pick your own. You can also block any videos and channels that you don't like. The next time that you sign in to a device, your children's profiles will be ready to go. Sign in with a parent's account and we'll get started!

## Google Kids Space

Google has created its own search engine designed for children, called 'Google Kids Space'. This platform filters out inappropriate webpages and instead introduces users to a variety of age-appropriate educational content.

<https://families.google/kidsspace/>



## Recommended apps, books and videos

When a child opens Kids Space, they'll see a library of quality content. Children can see recommendations for apps, games, books and videos to find new ways to play and learn.\*