

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

WELCOME

Dear parents and carers, welcome to the first publication of the Parent Safeguarding newsletter this academic year. 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.

FILTERING AND MONITORING OF ONLINE ACTIVITY IN SCHOOL

All laptops and digital devices on the school network are closely monitored and filtered for information around the areas of violence, bullying, sexual content, extremism, grooming and offensive language.

All students are now aware that if they misuse the school computers / digital equipment then it can lead to them not being allowed access to them. The filtering system is more than just a way to sanction inappropriate use; it also allows us to support students appropriately around specific content, as well as educating them and informing our future personal development curriculum.

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

TOPICS COVERED IN SCHOOL THIS MONTH:

- NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe
- PANTS rule
- Types of abuse
- Worry boxes
- Buddy benches
- Stranger Danger

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.

CHILD AT RISK OF EXPLOITATION (CRE)

HOW DOES IT HAPPEN? Many young people are groomed by a perpetrator who befriends the young person and makes them feel special by buying them gifts or giving them lots of attention. They may use threats and/ or violence, introduce them to alcohol or drugs and create a dependency, or pretend to be their boyfriend or girlfriend. Young people may be targeted online or in person.

SPOTTING THE SIGNS

When a child or young person is being exploited it can be difficult for them to see what is happening or know how to tell someone. It is important therefore that as parents and carers we are able to spot the warning signs and know how to best offer support.

MISSING FROM HOME

This might be returning home late, staying out over night or missing school. They might be defensive about where they have been, who they have been with and what they have been doing.

PHONE

Receiving excessive or strange messages or phone calls from people you and/or they don't know. Having adults as friends on social networking sites.

GIFTS

Coming home with new expensive items that they couldn't normally afford like phone, jewellery, new trainers or computer games. Or talking about people who give them free food or cigarettes.

ADULT FRIENDS

Associating with or developing close relationships with people over 18. They may give them lifts or invite them into adult activity like drinking, parties or even offer them the chance of a job.

ALCOHOL OR DRUGS

Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs on a regular basis. Particularly alcohol that is normally associated with adult drinking.

MOODS

Changes in mood, maybe acting secretive, withdrawn or aggressive.

INJURIES

Having marks on their bodies which they try to conceal.

SUDDEN CHANGE

In friendship groups, music taste, clothes, behaviour, school attendance.

CARS

Getting picked up or dropped by unknown people, or talking about going to new places.

Remember...

Even something that seems like normal teenage behaviour could be a sign that a child or young person is being sexually exploited. If you have any concerns report it to police by calling **101**, or Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**.



How grooming works



Targeting

A groomer will notice the child and find out more about them. They will get to know them and build trust by seeming to take an interest in the child, giving compliments or noticing things they do.



Befriending

The groomer then intensifies the contact. They will make a child feel special, understood and protected. They will spend a lot of time talking to the child and give them gifts and attention. They may begin gently to drive a wedge between the child and their family and friends. They will encourage secrecy between themselves and the child. All the time, they will be noting the child's vulnerabilities and finding out their needs and wants.



Hooking In

The groomer will now establish a firm relationship with a child, who will believe this is genuine and mutual. They will make the child dependent on them (for example: for protection, drugs, support- whatever the child needs) and take advantage of any vulnerabilities they have noticed. The groomer will begin to test the child out and desensitise them. This is to see how compliant the child is and to normalise poor treatment. By now, the child may feel they 'owe' the groomer in some way.



Controlling

At this stage, all pretence of genuine concern for the child will usually be dropped. The child will be manipulated and controlled through threats to themselves and others, physical and sexual violence, trickery and debt-bondage (where a child is told they 'owe' money to the groomer for things they have been given). The child may feel shame, fear and isolation so they don't think they can get help. They will often feel **trapped**.



Social Media

Social media has made it much easier for exploiters to reach children and young people. Some children are groomed very quickly on social media but don't understand who or what they are dealing with. They may never have any face-to-face contact with the person exploiting them. They may never realise they have been a victim of exploitation.

If a child seems to have changed significantly over a short period of time and you are worried, don't wait. Find a calm and private moment to ask the child gently, 'Do you have time for a chat?', 'Are you OK?', 'You don't seem yourself. Is there anything I should know?' Don't get upset or angry. If you are still worried, share your concerns with someone else.

Parents Against Child Exploitation:

www.paceuk.info

NSPCC: Helpline 0808 800 5000

www.nspcc.org.uk

Derby City Local

Authority Duty Number:
01332 641172

TIPS TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE INCLUDING SOCIAL MEDIA

KNOW WHO YOUR CHILD IS TALKING TO ONLINE

Children don't think of people they've met online through social networking and online games as strangers, they're just online friends Explain to your child that it's easy for people to lie about themselves online, like their age, for example, because you have never met them.

MAKE SURE THAT CONTENT IS AGE-APPROPRIATE

You know your child best, so check that the websites, social networks and games they're using are suitable for them.

CREATING FILTERS AND SECURITY CONTROLS

Parental controls allow you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content. They work across your WiFi, phone network, individual apps and devices.

- plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for.
- create content filters to block apps that may have inappropriate content.
- manage the content different family members can see.