

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 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:

- Group Chats
- Digital Footprint
- Sharing Images
- Mental Health
- Use of AI

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.

FAKE NEWS, HOAXES AND MISINFORMATION

Digital platforms have made it easier for anyone to share information online, and it can be difficult to determine whether something is real or false.

What a young person sees online can shape how they view the world and impact their overall wellbeing. It's important to talk to them about how misinformation spreads and how to look out for it.

False information that is spread online is known as **misinformation** or **disinformation**. These are most commonly referred to as 'fake news' or 'hoaxes'.

Misinformation is where false information is shared by accident without the intent to cause harm. For example, sharing inaccurate photos, quotes or dates online because you believe them to be true.

Disinformation is false information shared deliberately to mislead and cause harm. For example, fabricated news stories and political propaganda.

It's important to remind your child that not everything they see online is real and encourage them to always check before they share.

MANOSPHERE

Many parents, particularly of young boys, may fear they don't know enough about what their children are exposed to online.



The manosphere is a network of communities that create, consume and distribute content online aimed at men and boys. It includes multiple groups that differ in their aims and focus, but are all largely anti-feminist.

These groups discuss masculinity, but also topics such as health, gaming, politics and finance. This can make it difficult for parents to identify and for children to realise the extreme messages they are being exposed to.

In recent years, there have been a number of incidents of violence that have been linked to manosphere content. The extent of real-world effects is difficult to measure, and not everyone who engages with the manosphere will go on to commit violence. But it's clear that these communities can promote violence or spread harmful ideas about women and girls.

It is important to note, however, that this content also harms men and young boys. The manosphere promotes unrealistic expectations and extreme measures which can lead to poor self-esteem, mental health problems and, in some cases, suicide. This content preys on vulnerabilities and insecurities of boys and young men, especially related to social isolation and sexual rejection.

Much of the content that spreads in the manosphere is based on disinformation. These provide an easy framework for men to assess and improve their status while framing women and feminism as the problem.

Influencers and community members promote step-by-step instructions that people can follow to improve their social standing.

HOW TO SPOT THE SIGNS

The manosphere has an expansive lexicon (vocabularly) which is used to incite hatred towards women and fuel rivalry between men. Common terms include:

- Red pill
- Amog (alpha male of the group), Alpha, Gamma, Omega, Sigma, Sub-5 -
- White Knight, Soyboy
- Awalt (All women are like that), Foid/Femoid (female humanoid), Becky, Carousel
- 80/20 rule



80/20

Parents should not panic if they hear their children using manosphere terms. They may not fully understand their meanings and may have encountered them innocently. However, changes in how boys talk about women and girls, withdrawal from family and friends, and frequent use of these terms can be an indication that they are being influenced by the manosphere.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AT HOME

Most children will come across manosphere content at some point. A recent survey found that 59% of boys accessed manosphere content through innocent and unrelated searches. This doesn't necessarily mean that they endorse the misogynistic values spread by these groups.

Ways to support your child at home:

1. **Explore online together.** Research commissioned by media regulator Ofcom found that children were more likely to come across harmful content if their parents are less engaged in what they are doing. Engaging online with your child can be a natural way to start conversations about what they are exposed to. It is important that you are not trying to intervene or critique, but rather understand why they enjoy watching certain influencers or content.
2. **Encourage reflection and media literacy.** Research suggests that teaching children to be sceptical about what they see online can protect them against mis- and disinformation.
3. **Ask open-ended questions.** Asking children about what they consume or what slang they use online can feel awkward. The best way to get around this is to ask simple open-ended questions such as "How do boys in your class talk about girls?" or "Have you ever heard of...?" What you hear may be shocking, but approach it with curiosity and without judgment or dismissal to let them know they can share things with you.

If you are worried about your child's behaviour, you can find additional support from:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/>

<https://counterhate.com/parents-guide-how-to-navigate-social-media-safely-with-your-kids/>

<https://www.aru.ac.uk/news/what-parents-need-to-know-about-online-misogyny>

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/siteassets/resources/documents/research-and-data/online-research/keeping-children-safe-online/risk-factors-that-may-put-children-at-harm-online/children-risk-factors-report.pdf?v=328565#page=23.08>



Why talking about digital life is hard for kids ...

... and how to make it easier

Parents and carers don't know enough

1 Talk about both the good and the bad of life online

Young people say parents don't always understand the platforms they use or the online trends they enjoy. They also feel that adults focus mostly on what can go wrong, and rarely acknowledge the parts of being online that matter to them.

2 Be involved early and collaborate on key decisions

Young people say that when parents take an active interest from the start, they're better placed to help if something goes wrong. They also want to be consulted about decisions around their digital use, so they can understand the reasoning and feel the rules are fair.

3 When in doubt, ask your child

They know their online world best — and you're the person best placed to help them navigate it.

4 If you're still unsure, speak to a teacher or trusted professional

They can guide you towards the right advice and further support.



SHARING OF INDECENT IMAGES

Despite our best efforts to educate children about the dangers of sharing indecent images of themselves or others, this behaviour continues to occur as part of their natural curiosity during development. It is vital that we teach children about their digital footprint, so they understand how images can be disseminated widely across the internet and the potential for these images to fall into the wrong hands.

It's **against the law** for anyone to share a sexual image or video of someone who's under 18, even if they are also under age. Childline are working with the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and Yoti to help victims remove any sexual image or video of themselves that's online.

Report Remove is safe, easy and free – all you need to do is follow these steps: (child reporting image)

- choose your age range
- create a Childline account so we can send you updates on your report
- report your image or video to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)
- check your Childline locker a few days after your report to see if you need to add any more information and to see updates on your report

Read more about how to report an image or video.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>

Alternatively, any adult can report online sexual images on behalf of a child at:
<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

**NUDE IMAGE OF
YOU ONLINE?**



**WE CAN HELP YOU
TAKE IT DOWN**