



# Safeguarding Newsletter

Issue 5 – 22.9.23

Nothing is more important to us than the safety and welfare of our pupils.

We are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and young people within our school. We work closely with families and a range of professional external agencies to secure this and follow Dudley

Safeguarding policies and procedures within our school.

We hope you find this Safeguarding Newsletter useful and aim to send at least one each half term.



## New Guidance

With the start of a new academic year comes new policies and guidance. Our new Safeguarding Policy and Online Safety Policy can be found on our website under the Safeguarding tab along with the Governments 2023 updated version of Keeping Children Safe In Education.

All our staff, Governors and long term cover staff read and sign these policies which we think you will agree are very comprehensive. If you have any questions about anything within these policies, please contact the school office and make an appointment to meet with one of our SLT.



## Filtering and Monitoring at PHPS

All DGfL (Dudley Grid for Learning) schools, which includes PHPS, have access to RM SafetyNet web-based content filtering system which is active on all school network connections. This provides age-relevant content filtering and audit logs of activity.

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DGfL schools also have access to Smoothwall Monitor software on all school devices. This system monitors user activity and alerts safeguarding contacts for high risk incidents. Hosted firewalls with a default-deny policy ensure network security and e-Safety is protected.



## Screen Time

### What's the problem?

Spending time online and on devices can be a positive thing. But, high levels of screen time can put your child more at risk of:

- Being bullied online
- Abuse and grooming (when someone builds a relationship with a child to exploit or abuse them)
- Seeing inappropriate content
- Not getting enough sleep and exercise



### 4 steps you can take to protect your child

#### **1) Set parental controls on devices**

Use parental controls to restrict access to in-app purchases and explicit or age-rated content, and, on some devices, how long they can spend on the device. You'll likely need to set a password. Make sure it's different from the password used to access the device, and that your child doesn't know it. Parental controls are usually located under 'Settings'. See below for more detailed instructions for different devices.

## 2) Agree rules on screen time

There are mixed views on 'safe' screen time, but you could agree some limits to stop screen time interfering with your child's sleep or family activities:

- Make a plan together, and stick to it. You could set media-free times and zones, like during meals or in bedrooms
- Try to avoid screens an hour before bedtime
- Model the behaviour you want to see – which may mean no screen time for you at the times agreed with your child. Children are more likely to learn from example
- Try to minimise snacking during screen time
- Turn not using screens into a game, using apps like [Forest](#), where not using devices is rewarded

## 3) Talk to your child about staying safe online

Tell them:

- To be aware that anyone can pretend to be a child online
- If they talk to people they don't know, not to give away personal information – like what street they live on or where they go to school, or to share their location with them. To say no to any requests they get for images or videos, and stop talking to the other person if they are asked for these things
- To set their profiles to private, to limit what others can see
- To be 'share aware' – think carefully about what they share and with whom. Once it's out there, they've got no control over what the other person does with it.
- If they see something that upsets them, or someone bullies them, to tell an adult they trust

Don't feel confident starting a conversation with your child about what they're up to online? Read this advice from the NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

## 4) Encourage off-screen activities

Help your child get active for the recommended 60 minutes a day:

- See [www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities](http://www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities) for free ideas for activities and games
- Try an app that's designed to get children active – see the examples at [www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/apps-to-help-kids-get-active/](http://www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/apps-to-help-kids-get-active/)

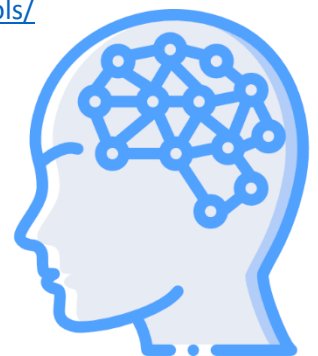
# What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity is increasing due to the likes of ChatGPT and more recently, My AI from Snapchat. Internet Matters have created a guide about using AI with your child and lists some popular AI tools that you should be aware of:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai-tools/>

In addition, Childnet have produced this blog about Snapchat's My AI:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/snapchats-new-ai-chatbot-and-its-impact-on-young-people/>



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# Have you been scammed online?

As scammers become more sophisticated, it's important that we learn about the different approaches that they might use and what to look out for so we can protect ourselves.

Barclays have listed some of the most common scams on their website:

<https://www.barclays.co.uk/fraud-and-scams/scams-protection/>

MoneySense from NatWest

NatWest have an area on their website full of useful articles and guidance to support your child and enhance your understanding. Articles include avoiding fraud and online scams, information on digital game currency, the dangers of fraud and do you know what a money mule is?

The site also includes activities to complete with your child to enhance their understanding of money including a 'savings challenge' for ages 5 – 8 and 'money and your mental health' aimed at young adults.

You can find this information and lots more here: <https://natwest.mymoneysense.com/home/>



## Stay Safe Guides

Every Wednesday we retweet the latest Stay Safe guide from the people at National Online Safety.

Follow Peters Hill and National Online Safety on twitter to receive these or check out previous guides on our school website, under the Useful Info tab, then select E-Safety.

### Meet our Safeguarding Team

**Tracy Curnin**



DSL

**Simon Duncan**



Deputy DSL

**Hayley Owen**



Deputy DSL

**Ellen Foxall**



Deputy DSL

**Karen Bridgwater**



Safeguarding  
Officer

**Peters Hill Primary School**

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