

Safer Newsletter



Our Safeguarding Team

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility at Peters Hill but we have staff with designated responsibilities for Safeguarding. We have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a group of deputies. We also have a dedicated Safeguarding Officer.

Meet the team below.

If you have any concerns you can contact any of the Safeguarding Team who will deal with your concern promptly, confidentially and without judgement.

Meet our Safeguarding Team

					
Tracy Curnin DSL	Simon Duncan Deputy DSL	Hayley Owen Deputy DSL	Ellen Foxall Deputy DSL	Stephen Porter Deputy DSL	Karen Bridgewater Safeguarding Officer



Forward Carers is commissioned by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council to deliver Adult Wellbeing and Young Carers services in partnership with Dudley Carers Hub. For young Carers, we provide comprehensive support, ensuring they feel valued, supported, and have the opportunities they need to thrive.

Is your child a Young Carer?

A Young Carer is someone aged 5-17 who helps look after a family member or friend who has a physical disability, mental health condition, learning disability, substance misuse issue, sensory impairment, or any long-term illness.

Young Carers often take on practical and emotional responsibilities that are usually expected of an adult.

Your child could access extra support if they are a Young Carer including...

- ✓ Regular youth clubs for fun activities and making friends.
- ✓ Information and advice on a wide range of issues.
- ✓ Referrals to other helpful services.
- ✓ Training sessions and workshops.
- ✓ Support with school and future planning.

If you think that your child is eligible and are interested in finding out more, please contact Karen Bridgewater or Tracy Curnin for an informal chat and more information on how your child could access support.

The NSPCC have a dedicated section on their website with avenues of support for Young Carers. The link can be found here;
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/how-do-i-support-a-young-carer/>

Advocate for your child

You don't have to do this alone. Schools, health professionals and councils all play a role in supporting young carers.

Schools

Start by contacting the headteacher or pastoral lead.

Schools may offer:

- Extra time or flexibility with homework and exams
- Permission to call home during the day
- Emotional support through staff or counsellors

Your child's rights

Young carers have legal rights. Knowing them helps you advocate with confidence.

Legal protections:

- Whole-family approach – councils must consider everyone's needs
- Young Carer's Needs Assessment – looks at how caring affects your child's wellbeing
- Transition support at 18 – required under the Care Act 2014

NHS responsibilities:

- Must identify young carers and refer them to support
- Integrated Care Boards must involve carers in service planning
- Mental health services must engage families meaningfully

New Device at Christmas?

The NSPCC have a section on their website dedicated to all things online safety, including parental controls. So if you have new devices in your house thanks to Santa, check out their advice pages on how to keep your child safe when using them.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

VPN (Virtual Private Networks)

Childnet has published data from research into young people's use of VPNs (virtual private networks) to access online content.

Surveys were conducted with 2,018 8-to-17-year-olds and 2,000 parents and carers across the UK. Findings include: 21% of children have used a VPN, with the number of children using VPNs increasing as they get older; the most popular reasons children gave for using a VPN were to stay safe online and protect their privacy; and 10% of children who used a VPN said they did so to look at content which was not age-appropriate.

Of children who have used VPNs, 23% said they started using VPNs in the last three months, which connects to the same time period as the introduction of the restrictions.

21% of children answered that they started using VPNs 1 year ago, and 17% answered that they started in the last 6 months.

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child, you can contact Children's Services directly via the information below;

Children's Front Door

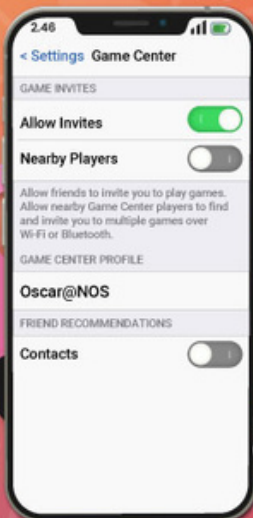
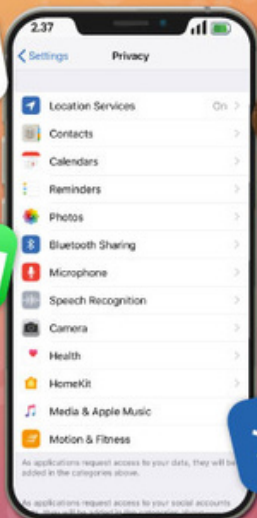
Telephone: 0300 555 0050 (select option 3)
Opening hours: 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Emergency Duty Team

Telephone: 0300 555 8574 (Out of office)
Open 5pm to 9am, Monday to Friday, 24 hours at weekends and on bank holidays

How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS iPhone

Apple devices come with built-in apps already available: Mail, FaceTime and Safari, for example. However, you can choose which apps and features appear on your child's device and which ones don't. You can also manipulate the features in Game Centre to enhance your child's safety and privacy when playing games, as well as blocking iTunes or App Store purchases if you wish.



How to Restrict Built-in Apps/Features

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Allowed Apps (you may need to toggle this to 'on' at the top)
- 5 Enable or disable the apps you wish to appear (or disappear) on your child's device

How to Restrict Game Centre

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Content Restrictions (you may need to switch the toggle at the top to the 'on' position)
- 5 Scroll down to Game Centre
- 6 Choose between Allow, Don't Allow, or Allow with Friends Only in the settings for each feature

How to Restrict iTunes & App Store Purchases

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap iTunes & App Store Purchases
- 5 Select Allow or Don't Allow for each feature (you can also lock these settings with a password)



Every Wednesday the National College release a 'Wake Up Wednesday' parent guide.
Sign up via X, Facebook, Instagram or Tik Tok to get these each week.

