



Safeguarding Newsletter

Issue 1 - 17.3.23

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.

Child exploitation awareness day 18th March

<https://stop-ce.org/national-child-exploitation-awareness-day/raise-awareness/>

Partners across the West Midlands are joining together to raise awareness of Child Exploitation, making sure people know how to spot the signs.

Child exploitation is when a child or young person is groomed, coerced or forced to do something they don't want to for someone else's gain. It can take different forms including child criminal exploitation, child sexual exploitation (CSE) human trafficking and modern slavery.

Perpetrators gain a child's trust and then use that power to make them do things they don't want to. Any child or young person from any community can be vulnerable to being groomed, exploited and abused regardless of their gender, homelife, religion or background.

It is child abuse and can involve perpetrators grooming their victims in various ways, such as in person, via mobiles or online, to gain their trust.

Warning signs can include a change in behaviour, having new friends, persistently going missing, secretive relationships with unknown adults, truancy from school, unexplained injuries, constant calls on a mobile phone and the possession of money or new things.



If you're concerned about a child in Dudley, visit <https://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/report-it> or call 0300 555 0050. In an emergency always dial 999

Online Safety

Have you seen on our website that we have an e-safety section for parents?

Under the 'Useful Info' tab you will find the 'e-safety' link and there are many handy keeping safe leaflets covering a range of apps, games and devices.

They are accessible and jargon free so we find them really helpful.

We also regularly share online safety advice via the Peters Hill Twitter - @peters_hill

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Roblox

As of 2023, Roblox has over 50 million daily users worldwide. 67% of these are registered as under 16. 29% are between 9-12 and 25% under 9.

This is only the age users declare during registration. This may not be accurate.

Due to the popularity of online gaming platform Roblox with children and young people under the age of 16, online safety experts have released a Safeguarding Update about a collection of games trending within the platform. The games depict themes of isolation, self harm and worse, with some including chatrooms where users engage in unmoderated discussions around hopelessness, depression and self-harm.



With 75% of children not receiving the mental health assistance they need, it is worrying that vulnerable children may be turning to these kinds of online communities for support and advice.

Several of these depression room games on Roblox have up to 5.6 million visits and are advertised as being appropriate for 'all ages'. Despite being explicitly against the platform's Terms of Service, Roblox have failed to remove most of these harmful games from the platform at this time.

If you are worried about a child's mental health or suspect that a child is in danger, it is essential to act immediately. Do not hesitate to call the police or contact relevant medical professionals.



Our Safer Schools have a great section to support families and teachers on a range of topics, follow this link <https://oursaferschools.co.uk/home-learning-hub/primary/> for more information on topics such as;

Influencers, Fake News, Image Sharing and Online Bullying

Meet our Safeguarding Team

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