



Safeguarding Newsletter

Issue 17 - 27.6.25

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.

Generative AI:

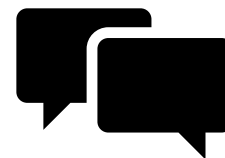
Generative AI can be a brilliant tool for creativity and learning, but it's not without its hazards. With 3 in 4 pupils now using generative AI (up from just 2 in 5 last year!), it's more important than ever to understand the risks. The Guide at the end of this newsletter will help you support safe use.



What is a Randomised Chat Room?

Online video chat can help us communicate with our loved ones but what happens when children and young people use this technology to connect with strangers?

Randomised chat rooms are platforms that connect you with a random stranger for a one-on-one video chat, with Omegle being the 'original' and most well-known of its time. You usually know nothing about the other user upon connection and these platforms often prioritise maintaining anonymity. You can remain in a conversation once paired with another user or choose to be reallocated to someone else.



Most of these platforms have an age rating of 18 years or older, but do not verify a user's age which is why many children and young people are able to access them.

Some of the most popular platforms are:

- Ome TV
- Chatroulette
- Emerald Chat
- Monkey
- Ro-Meet (on Roblox)

How To Spot If a Child Is Using Chat Rooms:

It can be tricky to identify if a child in your care is using these platforms, but there are some signs to look out for:

- Excessive time on devices, especially late into the night.
- Secrecy about their online activity.
- Speaking to unfamiliar people online or mentioning 'friends' whose names you don't recognise.
- Withdrawal from family and friends.

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Why do children and young people get angry?

Everyone gets angry. It's a build-up of feeling when something's gone wrong. While it's a normal emotion to feel it can be unpleasant to be around.

Anger issues are a top mental health concern for children contacting Childline, with many struggling to regulate their emotions during challenging situations and some sharing that they aggressively criticise themselves. It is parental responsibility to help children understand what they're feeling when they feel angry. Children should know that although they can't control their feelings, they can find ways to manage their behaviour, so they don't cause themselves or others harm. Finding an appropriate way to release anger is a valuable lesson for life.

You can always [encourage your child to contact Childline](#), we're here 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

Further advice can be found on the NSPCC link below and advice is organised into age-appropriate sections:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/arguments-conflict-family-tension/>

Free Swimming:

The link between good mental health and physical activity in children is well evidenced. Free swimming is returning for children in the borough over the school holidays – but youngsters will now have to be accompanied by an adult aged 18 years or above. The offer will be available at all of Dudley's leisure centres.

Free swimming will run from Tuesday 22 July to Sunday 31 August inclusive and any child aged 16 or under living in the borough can sign up. Young people taking advantage of the free swimming offer must be supervised by a responsible adult aged 18 or over. They do not have to accompany children over the age of eight into the swimming pool but must remain in the leisure centre and be contactable should any issues arise. Children under the age of eight must be accompanied into the water by an adult or responsible person over 18 years of age. One adult must accompany no more than two children under the age of eight into the swimming pool.

People who are not previously registered for free swimming must do so at <https://www.freeswimindudley.co.uk> in advance of their swim.



Family Action – Helping Hands Black Country

Helping Hands offers support, advice and guidance to parents/carers and their families, diagnosed or on a pathway for autism or ADHD.

TIM Workshops: Parent/carers and in-school sessions Developed by volunteers and parents with lived experience, we offer virtual and face to face TIM (This Is Me) workshops that look at understanding behaviours. Centred around understanding individual feelings, these workshops act as a window to the young person's behaviour and can be shared with anyone that has contact with the little/young person. They can also form part of EHCP plans.

Our Monthly Sharing Rooms Parents are invited to attend our monthly sharing rooms. Informal coffee mornings that create a safe space for parents to be themselves, meet other parents and build effective relationships. We also have books/resources for families to access if required and signpost into other services when appropriate.

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Family Sensory Sessions Family sensory sessions, delivered during the summer holidays, creating a space for families to make connections with other families that have similar lived experiences. These sessions provide opportunity to PLAY and interact with art/crafts and other sensory activities.

<https://family-action.org.uk/services/helping-hands-autism-adhd-behaviour-support/>

Summer Holiday Concerns

If you have any safeguarding concerns during the school holidays, you can report directly to Dudley Safeguarding on the following link: <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/care-and-health/safeguarding/tell-us/>
You can also report to NSPCC who will liaise with the Local Authority on your behalf.
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/report/>

Mental Health Support for Parents

Young Minds offer tailored information, advice and support to parents and carers who are concerned about their child or young person's mental health. You can speak to them over the phone, or chat to them online. You can use the Helpline service if you are the parent or main carer of a child or young person aged 25 or under. Their service is available across the UK. It is free and confidential.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-helpline/>

Cost of living - Free School Meals in Year 3 and above

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, they have been entitled to Universal Free School Meals. From Year 3 onwards Free School Meals are not universally available. If you get **any** of the following support payments your child may be entitled to receive free school meals in KS2, you could save just under £500 a year!

- Universal Credit (you must have less than £616.67 a month net earned income (after tax - and not including any benefits))
- Income Support
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit Run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Apply here if you think you are entitled <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits/free-school-meals/>

Meet our Safeguarding Team

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