

Latest Advice and Information for Parents, Students and Staff
2019 Autumn Term Edition : Christmas Edition



Merry Christmas from your Safeguarding Team

At Alpertown we have a team of staff who have been trained to an advanced level on all aspects of safeguarding. The team is available to any student, parent or school staff member to discuss and report any safeguarding concerns. From September 2019, the **Designated Safeguarding Lead** is Mr Hart and **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead** is Ms Lazare.

Keeping Safe over the Christmas Holiday

Christmas can be a tough time for everyone because expectations are high and there is a pressure to 'have a good time'. December sees a spike in safeguarding issues and every year the NSPCC report increasing numbers of children phoning them for help because relationship tensions among families tend to come to a head over the Christmas break. The key issues at Christmas are, according to the NSPCC:



1. Isolation

Children can be cut off from their usual support network of teachers and friends when school closes for the holiday and they have nowhere to escape to.



2. Overindulgence

Overeating, lack of sleep, emotional stress, excess alcohol, illegal drugs and anger can come together to create a perfect storm and children are often first in the firing line.

3. Home Alone

Children who are unsupervised are potentially put at risk of suffering or injury and the festive period is often a time when adults seek entertainment outside of the home. This could be a respite for some children, but they are still at risk as they are left to feed and fend for themselves and also look after younger siblings

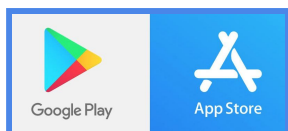
4. Expense and Presents

With real harsh poverty for some, children may not receive many presents and start comparing what they do have to others. This might make them feel like they have done something wrong and that they are on the 'naughty list'. Hearing about the fabulous gifts other children receive can make them feel inadequate and different.

You can read the full article on Safeguarding at Christmas : [click here](#)

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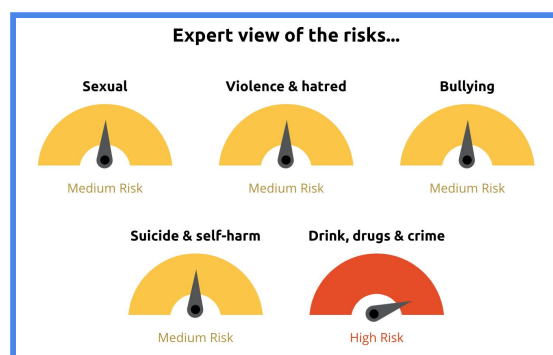


Know Your Apps : Information and Ratings



TikTok (formerly called Musical.ly) is a social media platform that lets you create, share and discover 15 second videos.

You can use music and effects to enhance your videos and you can also browse other people's videos and interact with them.



Phones in school (and out of school)

A reminder that students are not allowed to have smartphones in school. If they need to have a phone then they need to have a **feature phone** (like the one on the right). Smartphones can be distracting and have caused a number of incidents at school. The school will confiscate any smartphone seen and only return when contact has been made with a parent or carer.



Parent Activity at Christmas

Ask your child to show you their social media. Look at their phone (or tablet) with them and ask questions about what they say, who they talk to and what they post online. This is the best way to ensure young people learn to communicate online that is courteous and safe.

Road Safety

We have the new pedestrian crossing outside of the Ealing Road school. We all know that the road is very busy at the start and the end of the school day. Can we ask parents to remind their child that they must stop at the crossing and wait for the cars to stop before crossing the road.



Are all your contact details up to date?

If you change your home phone / email / mobile number please let the school know so that we have the most up to date contact details.

Useful contacts to report a concern :

If you need help then please contact one of the following:

For children [click here](#)

Online [click here](#)

Family Front Door [click here](#)

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