



24th May 2021

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2021

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility!

Dear parents and carers,

We believe that every child matters to us and to God. Everything that we do here at St. Patrick's has each and every child at heart. Their wellbeing, their safety, their achievement and their happiness underpins every decision that we make and determines how we work. Often when safeguarding is talked about the assumption is that it is just child protection - when a child is suffering harm, or is in danger from suffering harm. However, safeguarding is much broader than this and takes into account a very wide range of areas.

Each term, we will publish a newsletter that will give you as parents and carers, current advice and information about issues that will hopefully keep all of our children safe in school and at home.

Regards

Mr. Conwell

Who is responsible for Safeguarding?

Everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe. We are dedicated to working with the wider community, including the parish community and our families to tackle any safeguarding concerns and keep all children safe.

What is the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)?

The Designated Safeguarding Lead has a crucial role in taking lead responsibility for child protection issues in school. The DSL must be a senior member of the school's leadership team. DSL's are trained to take on this role and that training is updated every two years with additional training and conferences in between. The DSL has many responsibilities including working with staff and agencies involved in safeguarding children, working with parents and families, giving advice to staff, training staff, managing referrals from staff and investigating concerns passing them onto the correct body as necessary, and managing the records of safeguarding and Child Protection concerns

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Executive Headteacher: Mr M Ryan | Head of School: Mr J Conwell
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Westbury Street, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees, TS17 6NE
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Who are they at St. Patrick's?

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mr Conwell

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead -Mr. Ryan

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mrs. Kennedy (EYFS)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Miss Hobson (KS1)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mr. O'Donnell (KS2)

Designated Safeguarding Governor – Mr. Gary Wilson

Posters displaying this information are placed around school to remind the children of these people who they can talk to if they have any concerns.

Relationship and Health Education

This summer term, as part of our curriculum, all children will receive lessons in Relationship and Health Education (RHE). We consulted with you about this in... and we thank parents for their feedback. We want all our children to grow up healthy, happy, safe, and able to manage the challenges and opportunities of modern Britain and maintain healthy and strong relationships now and into adult life.

In Relationships Education, by the time your child leaves St. Patrick's, they will have been taught content on:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

In Health Education, by the time your child leaves us in Year 6 they will have been taught content on:

- Mental wellbeing
- Internet safety and harms

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- Physical health and fitness
- Healthy eating
- Facts and risks associated with drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- Health and prevention
- Basic first aid
- Changing adolescent body

We will be following the scheme “Life to the Full” which is in line with the teaching of the Catholic Church as well as acknowledging family life in society today to facilitate this learning. Each session will allow the children to discover:

Years 1 and 2 – we are uniquely made by a loving God, that we have differences and similarities (including physical differences between boys and girls), key information about staying physically healthy, understanding feelings and emotions, including strong feelings such as anger, and the cycle of life from birth to old age. We will use the basic scientific names for parts of the body.

Years 3 and 4– understanding differences, respecting our bodies, puberty and changing bodies, strategies to support emotional wellbeing including practicing thankfulness and the development of pupils understanding of life before birth.

Years 5 and 6– appreciation of physical and emotional differences, a more complex understanding of physical changes in girl’s and boy’s bodies, body image, strong emotional feelings, the impact of the internet and social media on emotional well-being, a more “scientific” understanding of life in the womb and how babies are made (taught in year 6), and menstruation. Please not that we will not be teaching about sexual intercourse in primary school. If you have any questions regarding this area of our curriculum you can always ask your child’s class teacher.

COVID 19 Update

Hopefully and God willing, we will regain a sense of normality in our everyday lives. In school, we will continue to follow government and Public Health operational guidance until advised otherwise. Therefore, we will still be operating in class bubbles and continuing with regular handwashing and only allowing parents into the school building by appointment only. If your

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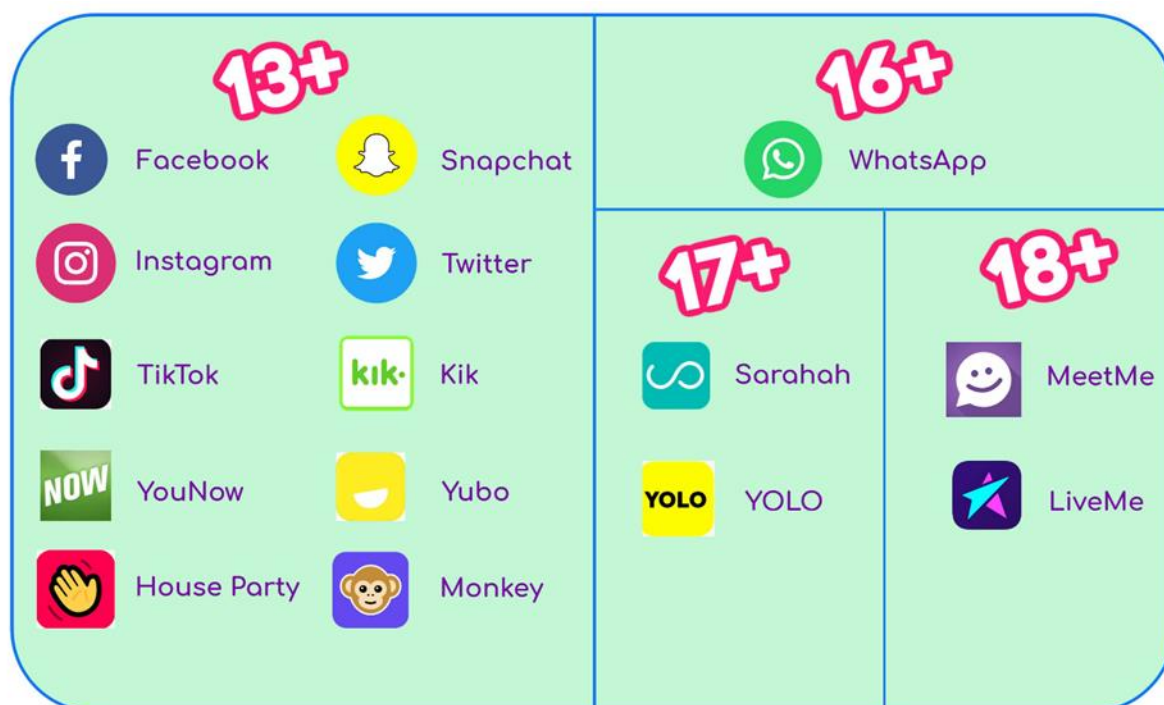




child is unwell with Covid19 symptoms, you must self-isolate, inform school and book your child for a PCR test.

Online Safety

More and more now, children somehow are being introduced to online activity through games and videos. We advise that this is “put off” until the children are old enough to understand the guidance of being safe on line and should never be left to their own devices while at primary school. Using online facilities to help with learning, keep in contact with others and to give some ‘down time’ is part of all of our lives, but it is important that we all know how to keep children safe when doing so. Parents are the first teachers of their children, but in a changing world it can be hard to keep up to date with the latest apps and technology crazes! Did you know? All social networking platforms and apps have minimum age limits. Some social networks use technologies that might not be appropriate for some ages or engage with communities that are made up of people much older than your child. Please supervise all of your child’s online activity to keep them safe and use the following recommended ages.



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What are the risks of an underage social networking account?

- Many sites include an instant message function which allows private conversations. Not everyone your child meets online will be who they say they are.
- Most social networking sites have an app version, meaning your child will have access to the social network from their smartphone or tablet. Some app versions of social networks use the location of the phone.
- Chat rooms and forums can connect people who are complete strangers and can be unmoderated.
- Information shared between friends can be easily copied and may share without the permission of your child.
- It isn't easy to take back information that has been posted – and can be impossible if it's already been shared.
- Chat rooms and forums are one of the places online groomers go to connect with children. This is sometimes done through video chat programmes and games on consoles such as the Xbox or PlayStation.

What can I do to keep my child safe?

1. Think about online routines: Have a conversation with your child about online safety and agree some rules to help keep them safe.
2. Have a conversation about online pressures and cyberbullying: Remember to talk to your child about what they are doing online and who they are talking to. Check in with them regularly and remind them they can talk to you, or another trusted adult, like a teacher about anything they are worried about.
3. Set up devices safely: Make sure you set it up with your child, exploring any safety features. Remember to use parental controls! Apple and Microsoft, for example, have family sharing.
4. Keep children safe on social media: Research the up-to-date concerns and guidance on the apps they are using. Remind your child not to share chat links or passwords on social media; explore any security features like how to report and block; talk to your child about what they are sharing. The Parent Resource Hub has detailed guides to the most popular apps, games and social media sites, along with strategies for how to keep your child safe when online. Here you will find useful guidance for Tik Tok, Fortnite, Snapchat and Instagram. Is your child using these? Should they be? Are you confident you could support them and spot the risks?

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[Click here](#) to visit our Parent Resource Hub to find out more about keeping your child safe online.

Useful Resources

The **Hartlepool and Stockton-On-Tees** Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSSCP) is attended by professionals from the Local Authority, Health Services, Police, Probation, Child and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS), Schools, the Voluntary Sector, Lay Members and many others. HSSCP brings together people who work with children and their families to ensure that the safety and welfare of children is at the heart of their work. HSSCP leads the work to safeguard children in Hartlepool and Stockton-On-Tees. Their website has a wealth of advice aimed at parents and carers, and children and young people. www.hsscp.co.uk

NSPCC

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) offer a confidential service to report child abuse both online and via the telephone. Their website also offers a wealth of information on safeguarding issues including pages for children and young people, schools and parents and carers. www.nspcc.org.uk NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

ChildLine

ChildLine is a free, private and confidential service where children and young people under the age of 19 can talk to a trained counsellor. www.childline.org.uk

CEOP – Reporting online abuse

CEOP help children stay safe online. If anybody acts inappropriately towards a child or young person online (such as sexual chat, or being asked to do something that makes them feel uncomfortable); they can report it using the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP) button. www.ceop.police.uk

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