



SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Message from the Safeguarding Team

All children have the right to:

- ◆ Speak out and be heard
- ◆ Be safe
- ◆ Get help when they need it

If you have a concern - Speak Out!

Welcome to Issue 2 of the West Coventry Academy safeguarding newsletter for parents. The aim of this publication is to keep you informed of important safeguarding updates and to signpost services that your children may benefit from.

West Coventry Academy is committed to safeguarding and meeting the needs of our young people, our staff and our families and through working in partnership, we will strive to create a safe and inclusive environment in which we can all learn and develop together.



Mrs Franklin
Lead DSL



Mrs Hussain
Deputy DSL

Designated DSLs



Mrs Powner
Year 11



Mrs Knowles
Year 9



Mrs Greenway
Year 8



Mrs Lane
Year 7



Mrs Withers
Year 12



Mrs Dudley
Family Support
Worker

Useful Contacts:

Childline: 0800 11 11

NHS: 111

FRANK: Confidential drugs information and advice
0300 123 6600

Samaritans: 116123, ww.samaritans.org

Victim Support: 08 08 16 89 111

Kooth: Online mental health services for young people and adults - <http://www.kooth.com>

Rape Crisis Line: 08088 039999
(12:00 - 14:30 & 19:00 - 21:30)

Anxiety UK: 03444 775 774

LGBT+ Helpline: 07935 669611
(15:00 - 17:00 Tuesdays & Wednesdays
13:00 - 15:00pm Thursdays)

CRUSE: Bereavement counselling:
0333 554 9157

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

Coventry Sexual Health Clinic: 0300 020 0027

Domestic Abuse Helpline:
www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

Forced Marriage Unit: 020 7008 0151

Positive Youth Foundation: 02476 158550

Homelessness: 0116 221 1857

Drinkaware: 0300 123 1110

BEAT: Eating Disorders: 0800 801 0811

Mind: Mental Health Charity
0300 123 3393

Statistic of the Week:

The Health Behaviour In School-aged Children (HBSC) study found, on average, 11% of child respondents engaged with social media in a problematic way in 2022 - compared to 7% in 2018.

INSTAGRAM—NEW PARENT SETTINGS

Instagram announced new safety settings for teenage users. These will be determined by their age and “guided” by parents and carers to better support parents, and give them peace of mind that their teens are safe with the right protections in place.

What ages will be affected?

The features are optional for those aged 16 and over, but linked parents and carers accounts will be able to control the settings for young people aged 13-15. Changing restrictions on 13-15-year-old accounts requires a parent or carer to be added to the young person’s Instagram account.

What are the features?

- ◆ Private accounts—accounts for under 18’s will automatically switch to Private.
- ◆ Restrictions on sensitive content— restrictions for sensitive content will now automatically be set at the highest settings for under 18’s.
- ◆ Limited Interactions— Under 18’s can only be tagged or mentioned by users that they follow.
- ◆ Sleep mode— this feature mutes notifications between 10PM and 7AM.



Discussing Distressing News Event's with children:



Events depicted and discussed in the news can be particularly upsetting for children and young people. Misinformation and the amplification of sensationalist voices on social media can heighten their anxiety and fear.

It is crucial to address these events appropriately and sensitively with children, as they may be scared and have questions after encountering stories online or hearing about it from peers.

Top tips on how to address this with your children:

- 1) Talk it out— if children are exposed to distressing news, take the time to sit with them and discuss what they’ve seen.
- 2) Be Supportive—reassure children of their safety, validate any feelings of worry or upset that they may have, and remind them you are available to talk any time they see something that scares them online.
- 3) Consider individual differences—all children are different and process information in different ways.

Useful acronyms:

- KCSIE** - Keeping Children Safe in Education
- CAMHS** - Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services
- PPO** - Police Protection Order
- EHA** - Early Help Assessment
- LA** - Local Authority
- PR** - Parental Responsibility
- MASH** - Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub