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 7 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 Saund
Year 10

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: Research with 2,275 young people aged 11-17 about their experiences of emotional abuse suggests around 1 in 15 children in the UK have been emotionally abused.

New Year = Safer Devices. Safety Settings—why they are important.

Ensuring the safety of children and young people used to mean showing them how to cross the street and teaching them not to talk to strangers. In the new digital age, this has expanded. Parents and carers are now required to be informed about the online world, the risks it can pose to their children, and how to protect them.

A child may seem safe in their bedroom, but the online world exposes them to countless harms. This is where safety settings come in. Safety settings can allow parents and carers to:

- Tailor the online experience to be age-appropriate, increasing protection from harmful or upsetting content.
- Control access to content without limiting the online experience for older members of the family.
- Mute, block and report users or content that is inappropriate.
- Plan what time of day children and young people can use their devices or specific platforms, and how long for
- Monitor online activity while respecting children and young people's privacy

Whattsapp Groups

Recent concerns have emerged regarding a WhatsApp group known as 'Add Everyone.' Schools and regional police forces across the UK have warned that this group exposes children and young people to explicit and harmful material.

What are 'Add Everyone' group chats?

'Add Everyone' group chats can go by many names, but their purpose is often the same. These WhatsApp groups are spaces where children and young people are invited to join a chat that contains content such as sexual images, material promoting self-harm, sexual violence, racism and other inappropriate content. These chats may be created by adults seeking to connect with younger users or by young people themselves as a seemingly fun activity. However, as the name suggests, it is difficult to control who becomes a member of these groups, which means that access to children and young people can easily fall into the wrong hands. In some cases, the group owners ask for children to add their contacts to the group, 'except their parents'.

As WhatsApp has lowered its minimum age from 16 to 13 this year, the risk of young users encountering inappropriate content and adults may increase. However, reports indicate that these groups have targeted children as young as 9.

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

Our 4 Rs...
Respectful Responsible Resilient Ready to Learn