

Stoke Park Primary School—Safeguarding Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Safeguarding our pupils is of the utmost importance at Stoke Park and all are staff are committed to safeguarding all members of our school community. We have a comprehensive safeguarding curriculum at the school which teaches our pupils, through the curriculum and assemblies, how to stay safe in different situations. Our safeguarding curriculum can be found on our school website.

This year we will be running a safeguarding week in the penultimate week of the summer term to further support our pupils in staying safe. During this week we will have a range of visitors running assemblies and workshops for pupils across the school. So far we have confirmed the following:

- Dogs Trust
- RNLI
- The Vench
- Fire Service
- Prevent
- Police (online safety)
- Lifespace

We are hoping that by inviting visitors in to talk to our children about how to stay safe in different situations will support our pupils to stay safe over the long summer break.

Furthermore, during this week, we will be running a parent safeguarding workshop where we will have guest speakers running sessions for parents about how to help keep their children safe. More information about this will be sent out soon.

Mrs Higgitt

Assistant headteacher and DSL>

Useful contacts:

First Response: To report any safeguarding concerns. This can be done anonymously.
01179036444

North Bristol Foodbanks (0117 9791399) For areas covered see here: <https://northbristol.foodbank.org.uk/locations/>

[Young Minds](#): supporting children and young people's mental health

[Mind](#): adult mental health support and information

[Refuge](#): domestic abuse support

[Bristol Mindline](#): 0300 123 3393 (in the day); 0800 808 0330 (after 7pm)



STOKE
PARK
PRIMARY

The Safeguarding team.

The Safeguarding team. If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the schools safeguarding team



Mrs Higgitt—Designated safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Mrs Lambert—Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Mrs Dennison—Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Or contact **First Response** on:
01179036444

Spotlight on: Water Safety



During the summer months it is likely that many pupils will be visiting the beach or swimming pools. It is essential that children are taught how to stay safe in and near water. It would be really helpful to talk through with your child how they can do this.

Stop and think - spot the dangers

- It can be very cold
- There may be hidden currents
- It can be difficult to get out (steep slippery banks)
- It can be deep
- There may be hidden rubbish, e.g. shopping trolleys, broken glass
- There may be no lifeguards there
- It is difficult to estimate depth
- It may be polluted and could make you ill.

Stay together

- It is always better to go to the water with a friend or family member
- Children should always go near water with an adult

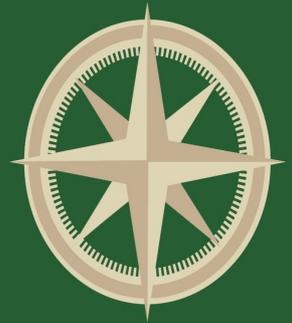
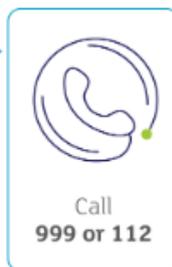
Float

- If you fall into the water unexpectedly – float until you can control your breathing. Then call for help or swim to safety.

Call 999

- You may be able to help yourself and others if you know what to do in an emergency.
- If you see someone in difficulty, tell somebody, preferably a Lifeguard if there is one nearby, or go to the nearest telephone, dial 999, ask for the Fire Service at inland water sites and the Coastguard at the beach.

Water Safety Code



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

UK AND EUROPE
16+
15+ REST OF THE WORLD

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CLICK HERE

CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' – choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.



EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.



REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.



LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.



THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.



DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.



CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.



Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday