

St Faith's Church of England Infant and Nursery School

Our vision: Our inclusive St Faith's family strives to enable all to achieve their full potential and inspire a community of hope and friendship.

We seek excellence by ensuring a safe, respectful and flourishing learning community, where differences are celebrated and our genuine love and high expectations make a difference to all.

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." (Oscar Romero)

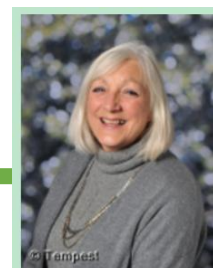
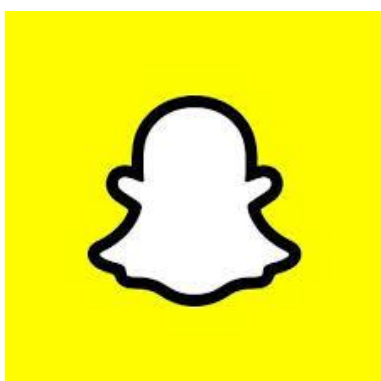
SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2025

In this newsletter:

- Online reminder
- Our Safeguarding Governor
- What parents need to know about ... SNAPCHAT!
- WHATSAPP – information for the whole family
- Tips for encouraging Open Discussions for a digital world
- Our School Safeguarding Team
- Safeguarding Contact including Local Authority Contacts



It is important to remember that no filters or controls are 100% effective so make sure your child knows that they can, and should, talk to someone if they see or hear anything upsetting online



School Governor Safeguarding Team

As part of their role, our school governors carry out regular safeguarding monitoring. This can involve auditing records and school processes such as the Single Central Record. They also interview staff and pupils to check the impact of our processes and policies.

The governors will be adding to our monthly newsletter with updates on this work and any outcomes identified.

Our Safeguarding Governor is Ros Garrod-Mason.

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What parents need to know about SNAPCHAT

Snapchat is a photo sharing app for mobile phones and tablets. The app allows users to share images, videos and chat with friends through text, call or text messages. Users can share images and videos directly to specific friends, or through a story shared with their entire friend list, which disappears the previous 24 hours. In a study, Snapchat was ranked the 4th most negative app in terms of having an impact on young people's health and wellbeing, with children feeling that they can use the app Snapchat to "make you look pretty."

13+

EXPOSING YOUR CHILD'S EXACT LOCATION

The Snap Map lets you share your EXACT location in real-time through a map on the app. The user's location updates when the app has been opened for 30 seconds. There is a warning on the Snap Map when sharing location history and when it has been turned off. They may also see other users' location history when they are online on the app, as well as which location history you share. When updating to the Snap Map, users' images or videos could appear in "Recent" feeds and friends can see all "Snapchat history" or the history.

ADDICTIVE SNAPSTREAKS

"Snap streaks" are special when users have been able to send each other snaps (pictures or videos) every day for 15 or more days. Snapstreaks encourage users to keep the streaks alive. Snapstreaks can be addictive and users may feel pressured to keep the streaks. Children may miss out on other activities and spend too long on the app, which can put at jeopardy some of the positive benefits of the app.

SEXING

While Snapchat's privacy features allow users to delete messages, users still have the capability to screenshot or record anything which has been sent to them. Users may sometimes forget that screenshots or recordings are possible and think they are safe from "leaking" their content. Unfortunately, users can even send a second photo or video. Snapchat has become the chosen platform for children and young people to send sexually explicit images or videos. Child sexual images have been exchanged and recorded using similar status or captions. This can lead to further damage, such as blackmail and cyberbullying.

EXTRAS TO MAKE YOU STAY

Aside from taking photos and videos, Snapchat has other features to keep users coming back for more. "Snap Games" is a feature within the app where users can play mini-games with others on their friends list. The game features a wide variety of settings to be used during a conversation. Another feature on the app is "Snap Streaks", which allows users to build a streak (consecutive Snapchat messages and other content, including a picture of a video) with other users. Snapstreaks are designed to encourage users to stay on the app, which may be quite addictive.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's collection of filters and lenses are seen as a great way to enhance your "selfie" photos. Although the filters are often designed to promote self-love and positivity, using the "Beauty" filters to alter facial features can lead to unrealistic expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Children may notice the alterations and appreciate the reality of their bodies. Filters can also be used to disguise faces and other users on the app might become their confidence or self-worth.

Top Tips for Parents

THE RISKS OF SEXING

In a recent digital safeguarding audit, the risks with sexting were identified as a high priority. Sexting is a form of digital communication that involves sending and receiving explicit images or videos. It is important to note that sexting can be a form of sexual harassment. It is important to note that sexting can be a form of sexual harassment. It is important to note that sexting can be a form of sexual harassment.

REPORTING A STORY, LENS, FILTER, SNAP OR MESSAGE

If your child comes across inappropriate content on Snapchat, you should report it. To report a story, lens, filter, snap or message, click on the three dots in the top right corner of the content. This will open a menu with options to report the content. You can report the content to Snapchat or to the relevant authority. It is important to note that reporting content does not guarantee that the content will be removed. It is important to note that reporting content does not guarantee that the content will be removed.

USE 'GHOST MODE'

By using "ghost mode", users can turn off their location on the Snap Map. To enable this, go into the Snap Map and tap the ghost icon in the top right corner. This will change the setting to "ghost mode".

HOW TO DELETE A MESSAGE

Before your child sends or sends any messages through the app, you should explain to them how to delete a message. To delete a message, tap the message and then tap the trash icon in the top right corner. This will delete the message and you will receive a confirmation message. It is important to note that deleting a message does not guarantee that the message will be removed. It is important to note that deleting a message does not guarantee that the message will be removed.

TURN OFF 'QUICK ADD'

Users can turn off "Quick Add" to prevent other users from adding them to their friends list. To turn off "Quick Add", go into the app's settings and tap "Quick Add". This will turn off "Quick Add". It is important to note that turning off "Quick Add" does not guarantee that other users will not be able to add them. It is important to note that turning off "Quick Add" does not guarantee that other users will not be able to add them.

RESTRICT STORY VIEWS

Users can restrict who can view their stories. To restrict story views, go into the app's settings and tap "Story Settings". This will open a menu with options to restrict story views. You can restrict story views to "My Friends" or "My Story". It is important to note that restricting story views does not guarantee that other users will not be able to view the story. It is important to note that restricting story views does not guarantee that other users will not be able to view the story.

NOS National Online Safety

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter: @nationalonlinesafety Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety

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Whatsapp



What is Whatsapp

WhatsApp is a messaging app owned by Meta that allows users (13+) to send text, voice, and video messages, make calls, and share media, documents, and locations, all using an internet connection

Privacy Settings

Whatsapp has the following privacy settings -

Last seen online
Profile photo
About
Status
Read receipts
Silence unknown callers

You can set these features to Everyone, My contacts, My contacts except... and Nobody

Location Sharing

WhatsApp gives you the ability to share your device's location with other users

This can be turned off in settings

Sharing Personal Information

Ensure you remind your children that they shouldn't share private information including -

- names, phone numbers, links to other social media accounts or their school
- locations
- other people's personal information
- links to join private group chats
- photos of themselves including indecent images

Reporting and Blocking

You can report problematic content to WhatsApp. You can also block a user to stop all contact

Group chats

Whatsapp has the ability for users to be added or create group chats, if your child is added into a group chat with people they don't know that will give that person the ability to chat with them.

You can't always control if you're added to a group chat; but remind children that they can always leave whenever they want to or block unwanted contact

You can mute the group chat without leaving the group, this stops notifications but still allows you to check in when you want.

Further information



Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future



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At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time: they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

REMAND YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online. In case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are not to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings of RAISE (Raising Awareness in Sex Education) has almost 20 years' experience delivering relationships and sex education and training to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the staff-training element of the RSE curriculum.



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#WakeUpWednesday

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Our Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Amanda Konrath
Head teacher

Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Lisa Kingston
Deputy Head Teacher

Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Hayley Palmer
SEND/CO and Inclusion Leader

Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Gemma Simpson
Nurture Lead and ELSA

Contact Number for the Safeguarding Team in School 01522 888988

Our School Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found on our School Website

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Safeguarding Contacts

Advice on any aspect of Child Protection and Safeguarding may be sought from the Safeguarding Team;

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Amanda Konrath
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s)	Miss Lisa Wright, Mrs Hayley Palmer, Mrs Gemma Simpson
Our local contact numbers are:	
Safeguarding of children concerns (<i>Children living in Lincolnshire</i>)	<p>01522 782111 <i>Lincolnshire's Children's Services Customer Service Centre for reporting concerns and Early Help Team for Advice</i></p> <p>Emergency Duty Team 01522 782333 (5pm-8am + weekends and Bank Holidays)</p>
Safeguarding of children concerns (<i>Children living in other Authorities</i>)	<i>Please add in relevant authority contact numbers if applicable as concerns for children need to be reported to the local authority in which the child resides (or state n/a)</i>
<p>Allegations against /concerns about adult(s) working with children</p> <p><small>Staff must report concerns to the Head teacher or in the event of concerns about the Head teacher concerns must be reported to the Chair of Governors.</small></p>	<p>Lincolnshire Local Authority Designated Officers (LADO)</p> <p>Rachael Powis, Kim Murray & Ildiko Kiss 01522 554674 LSCP_LADO@lincolnshire.gov.uk</p> <p><small>The Head/Chair must contact LADO to discuss concerns & course of action.</small></p>
<p>Police (<i>Emergency</i>)</p> <p>Police (<i>Non-Emergency</i>)</p>	<p>999</p> <p>101</p>
Safeguarding Cluster	
LCC Safeguarding in Schools for advice around safeguarding policy, audits, training etc.	<p>Ruth Fox Miriam Shucksmith</p> <p>safeguardingschools@lincolnshire.gov.uk</p>