

Bratton Primary School

Safeguarding Update – Autumn Term 2023

WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

SAY SOMETHING IF YOU SEE SOMETHING

The following members of staff are Designated Safeguarding Leads for Bratton Primary School:

- Mrs Williams (DSL)
- Mrs Luke (DDSL)
- Mrs Janman (DDSL)

They can be contacted via the school office admin@bratton.wilts.sch.uk or by telephone on 01380 830511.

For a copy of our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding 2023 Policy, please visit the 'Policies' page on our school website

<https://bratton.wilts.sch.uk/>

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Autumn Term Safeguarding Newsletter. This newsletter is designed to support parents in deepening their understanding of topical safeguarding issues that may affect their child, themselves or members of their local community.

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.** Every single person who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

You will see on the left of this page information about who to speak to if you have concerns about a child's safety or welfare, however, all our staff are trained in safeguarding if you want to discuss any concerns with them.

Emma Williams



Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023

Keeping Children Safe in Education is a statutory Department for Education document that all schools are required to follow when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It covers many aspects of safeguarding, including different forms of abuse, early help processes, safer-recruitment, how concerns must be reported and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Click here for the full document:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1181955/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2023.pdf

All staff at Bratton Primary School have updated safeguarding training every INSET day in September. Alongside this all staff complete four online training modules in Prevent Duty, Online Safety, Female Genital Mutilation and Cyber Security.

KCSIE 2023



What is a Designated Safeguarding Lead?

Each school must have an appropriate senior member of staff to take lead responsibility for child protection. Key aspects of the 'Designated Safeguarding Lead' role include:

- Ensuring that all staff are aware of the processes for raising safeguarding concerns
- Ensuring all staff understand the signs of child abuse and neglect
- Referring any concerns to Social Care
- Monitoring children who are the subject of Child Protection and CiN (Child in Need) Plans
- Maintaining accurate and secure child protection records
- Raising awareness of the school's safeguarding policies and procedures, and ensuring these are implemented and reviewed regularly.

TYPES CHILD ABUSE

There are four common types of abuse:



PHYSICAL ABUSE

The non-accidental physical injury of a child. The inadvertent result of physical punishment or physically aggressive treatment of a child.



SEXUAL ABUSE

Any act of sexual nature upon or with a child for the sexual gratification of the perpetrator or a third party, including anyone who allowed or encouraged it.



EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Chronic attitudes or acts which interfere with the psychological and social development of a child. When a parent or caregiver harms a child's mental and social development or causes severe emotional harm.



NEGLECT

Child-rearing practices which are essentially inadequate or dangerous. The failure to act on behalf of the child; not providing the care, supervision, affection, and support needed for a child's health, safety, and well-being.

Useful Safeguarding Acronyms and Vocabulary

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead

MASH: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

CP: Child Protection

CiN: Child in Need

ESA: Early Support Assessment

CEOP: Child Exploitation and On-Line Protection Centre

KCSIE: Keeping Children Safe in Education

PREVENT: Part of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn in to extremism

FGM: Female Genital Mutilation

CAMHS: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

SEND: Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

LAC: Looked After/ Previously Looked After Child

Online Safety - Oversharing

Children and young people can sometimes feel pressure to overshare online. Remind them that they should not share private things, such as:

- Personal information (such as names, phone numbers, links to other social media accounts or their school)
- Live or frequent locations
- Other people's personal information
- Links to join private group chats
- Photos of themselves / their body, such as sexual photos or videos

Explain to your child that if someone starts asking them other questions, or suggests that they speak on a different messaging platform, then they should tell you or another trusted adult.

If you suspect a child is being abused or is in any danger of being abused please contact a Designated Safeguarding Lead or any member of staff.

You can also contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on: 0300 456 0108

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999.

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



How are Children Supported to Speak Out?

At Bratton Primary School we have a number of ways in which we support children in sharing their worries with us and to speak out in a safe way. These include:



Worry Boxes and Worry Monsters in all classrooms. Children can place their name or their written worry in the worry box or inside the worry monster. An adult checks these daily and finds time to speak with each child individually about their worry.

PSHE and RHSE curriculum – The children have a weekly PSHE lesson which provides opportunities to discuss a range of different concepts relating to safeguarding. These include healthy relationships, emotions, consent, worries and feelings, being kind etc.



Child friendly whistleblowing and Childline posters – In all classrooms and toilets a child friendly whistleblowing poster and Childline poster is displayed. These posters contain information about who they can talk to if they do not feel safe or do not feel listened to. These have also been introduced to the children in assembly.

Children at Bratton regularly report that they feel safe and listened to in school. They know that they are able to speak to any of the adults in school about their worries and that they will be taken seriously and listened to.



Good to know – reminders of the minimum age for popular apps



Facebook (minimum age 13) – lets users create their own profiles, share status updates, pictures, videos and chat with other users and also has a messenger app.



Instagram (minimum age 13) – allows users to alter photos, upload them and share to other social networking sites. Photos and videos can be sent directly to specific users.



Snapchat (minimum age 13) – a photo-sharing app where users can send photos or videos to their friends. These will display on screen for up to ten seconds before being deleted, although it is possible to take screenshots of messages and download other apps designed to capture and save Snapchat content.



TikTok (minimum age 13) – TikTok users can make their own short videos on the mobile app and often like to have music accompany these. The users have creative control over the videos. Other TikTok users can 'react' to videos they see by filming their responses alongside the original video, or 'duet' by making a video alongside another video.



Twitter (minimum age 13) – a social network that lets users send and read 'Tweets': messages limited to 280 characters.



Tumblr (minimum age 16) – a social networking site where users can post blogs and follow other people's blogs. Some of the content on this site includes sexual and/or pornographic images.



WhatsApp (minimum age 16) – a free-of-charge, real-time messaging service. Users can share images and videos, take part in 'group chats' and share locations. As it's based on knowing the user's phone number, you can only message users if you already have this information.



YouTube (minimum age 16) – allows users to watch, create and comment on videos. The dislike button can create insecurities with content posted even if comments are turned off for the video.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-18 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18

CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact with strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app, it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £39; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive; figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video, or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.



READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.



Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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