



Euxton Primrose Hill

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY

16th September 2026



www.primrosehillschool.org.uk

X - @EuxtonPH

"Together We Will Make A Difference."

HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

Apple Distinguished School

I am delighted to share that we have been awarded Apple Distinguished School status for another three years! This is a fantastic achievement and recognition of the innovative ways technology is used across our school to enhance learning.

A huge thank you to Miss Dobbs for all her hard work in leading this and for everything she does behind the scenes to support technology across school. Thank you also to Mrs Chapman, our Apple Professional Learning Coach, and to all of our staff for embracing technology and using it creatively to enrich learning. This recognition is a reflection of the passion and commitment across our whole school community.

PTA Meeting

Last night, our PTA Annual General Meeting was held in school. It was wonderful to see some new parents joining us and to reflect on the PTA's successes from last year, as well as looking ahead to the exciting year to come.

The PTA will be sharing details of our New Year Quiz, which is being held next Thursday. We do hope you can bring the family along for a great evening of fun and laughter!

OPAL Play

A huge thank you to everyone who is kindly bringing in donations for OPAL Play. Please do continue to have a sort out at home and bring in any items that you think our children might enjoy playing with.

It has been wonderful to see the children enjoying the new opportunities at lunchtime dressing up, playing with small-world resources, mixing with children from other year groups and, most importantly, having a fantastic time playing together. It is lovely to see our OPAL vision coming to life!

A little reminder as the weather becomes increasingly unpredictable: please make sure your child brings a coat to school each day. We have had some very heavy downpours and some children are getting caught out when they are outside. Children can also bring wellies into school to change into at lunchtime. We will be looking at suitable wellie storage over the next month.

Our Website

We have listened to your feedback on how we send and share information with you and are working hard to get all of our updated information onto the school website. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be updating our class pages and sharing more news through our News page. We also now have a dedicated Parent/Carer section, which contains a wealth of useful information, including our new 'Parent Information Hub'. This page contains answers to some of the questions we are regularly asked and will continue to grow over time.

Thank you for your patience while we give the website a vigorous makeover! There is lots happening behind the scenes, and we are really pleased with how it is coming together.

Best wishes,
Mrs Claire Jones
Headteacher



Attendance & Absence

We strongly encourage good attendance to support your child's learning and progress.

• If your child is unwell, please contact the school office by 9:00am on each day of absence.

☎ 01257 276688

✉ office@primrosehill-euxton.lancs.sch.uk

• Be specific:

It's important to give a clear reason – for example:

✓ "Tonsillitis" or "Sickness and temperature"

✗ Not just "unwell" or "poorly".

This helps us meet safeguarding and health requirements



Communicating with Us

If you need to get in touch, please email the school office in the first instance:

✉ office@primrosehill-euxton.lancs.sch.uk

Your message will be passed on to the relevant member of staff.

We aim to respond as soon as we can, but please allow up to 48 hours for a reply during term time.

For urgent matters during the school day, please phone the school office directly on: 01257 276688



If You're Concerned About Something...

We want to work in partnership with you.

If you're ever worried or unhappy about a situation, please follow this order of contact, via the school office:

• **Class Teacher** – your first point of contact

• **Phase Leader** – if further support is needed:

EYFS & Year 1 – Mr Danny Tooby

Year 2 – Miss Amie Dobbs

Years 3/4 – Mr Lloyd Davies

Years 5/6 – Miss Molly Burns

• **Assistant Headteacher** – Miss Amie Dobbs

• **Deputy Headteacher** – Mrs Emma Swinburn

Headteacher – Mrs Claire Jones

We're here to help and will always do our best to resolve any concerns quickly and fairly.



Jewellery & Appearance

To keep everyone safe and focused on learning:

• **No jewellery** – including earrings (studs/spacers), rings, bracelets, necklaces, loom bands, or wristbands

• **No earrings or spacers** – these are a safety risk, especially during play and PE

• **No nail varnish or make-up** – children should come to school with natural nails and faces

Thank you for your support!

Tel: 01257 276688 (8:15am-3:45pm)

Email: office@primrosehill-euxton.lancs.sch.uk

Out of school Club, please contact Sarah Collison 07548 944202 or s.collison@primrosehill-euxton.lancs.sch.uk



CONGRATULATIONS TO MR & MRS WALSH



We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Mrs Walsh and her husband welcomed a gorgeous baby boy into the world on 15th September 2026.

Jude Thomas Walsh weighed 7lb 8oz and is healthy, happy and absolutely gorgeous!

Huge congratulations to the Walsh family, we can't wait to hear all about him and look forward to seeing lots of beautiful photographs!

SPACE DAY SPECIAL LUNCH - THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2026

We are having a Space Day Special Lunch on **Thursday 1st October 2026**, which is open to all children. **The menu is attached.**

If your child is on packed lunches and would like this special lunch, please make a payment of **£3.05** for the '26 Space Day Special Lunch' payment item on ParentPay www.parentpay.com/ by **9am Monday 21st September 2026**.

Please note: For children in EYFS, KS1 and children who are entitled to a free school lunch who usually bring a packed lunch but would like to have a 'special dinner' instead, you will need to inform the school office by the set deadline above as there is no payment item in ParentPay.

If your child is already on school lunches they will automatically receive this lunch.



TEMPEST PHOTOGRAPHY - FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2026



Please note that **Tempest Photography** will be coming into school on **Friday 18th September 2026** to take individual and sibling photographs.

All children must come into school wearing their **full school uniform**. If your child has PE scheduled on this day they can wear their PE trainers with their school uniform.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Y6 MACMILLAN MORNING FRIDAY 25TH SEPT 2026

Our Year 6 children are getting ready for our Macmillan Coffee Morning on **Friday 25th September**, and we would love your help!

We are looking for **donations of yummy cakes and baked treats** for our cake stall. If you are able to donate, please bring your goodies into the school office from **Thursday 24th September or on the morning of Friday 25th September**.

Every donation, big or small, will help us raise money for this wonderful cause.

Thank you so much for your support!



HARVEST FESTIVAL - TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2026



On **Tuesday 6th October at 9.15am**, Y3 will be performing their Harvest Assembly. As part of our school harvest celebrations, we are asking for your generosity in donating food to be shared with the School Council's chosen charities.

We are asking for donations such as: **tins, packets, cereal, tea, coffee, rice, pasta etc.** Please ensure these "cupboard essentials" are as non-perishable as possible with a long shelf life. All donations can be dropped at the office or with either of the Y3 classes. Please donate before **Friday 2nd October** as they will be displayed as part of the assembly. We thank you in advance for your kindness.

Y3 parents are welcome to come and watch the Harvest Assembly. Please note that attendance will be limited to **two parents per child**.

Tel: 01257 276688 (8:15am-3:45pm)

Email: office@primrosehill-euxton.lancs.sch.uk

Out of school Club, please contact Sarah Collison 07548 944202 or s.collison@primrosehill-euxton.lancs.sch.uk



CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and enjoyed the glorious weather we experienced. I trust that you have all settled into your new classes and are excited about the year ahead!

If you have completed any of the Children's University challenges over the summer, or visited places of interest verified by Children's University, please send your evidence to: louise.waller@elevate-ebp.co.uk. Additionally, if you have continued attending your clubs (verified by Children's University), these can now be logged on Showbie under **Children's University - Autumn Term Evidence**.

On the 21st September, we will be holding a whole-school assembly to reintroduce Children's University to the children and explain how credits can be earned. We will also be celebrating last year's learning achievements by awarding certificates. You do not need to have a Learning Passport to submit evidence, as the folder on Showbie can be used as an alternative. As long as your child's club has been verified by Children's University, children can earn up to 10 credits per half term for attending.

Postcards will be available from the office from 21st September for children to take to clubs that are not yet verified. It is free and easy for clubs to join.

We can't wait to see the exciting learning opportunities the children get involved in throughout the year ahead!

Mrs Brockie

PSHE & RSHE CURRICULUM UPDATE

We have reviewed our PSHE and Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) curriculum in response to the Department for Education's updated statutory guidance, which came into effect in September 2026.

We have published our updated PSHE/RSHE Policy and further information about what children will learn across the school on our website.

Read our PSHE & RSHE Curriculum Information on our website

This information also explains the statutory elements of the curriculum and parents' right to request withdrawal from any Sex Education taught beyond the statutory Science curriculum.

If you have any questions about our PSHE and RSHE provision, please contact the school office.

PTA UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who joined our AGM last night. It was so nice to see some new faces, especially those who are new families to school too! We're looking forward to another wonderful year full of events and family fun!

I'm happy to announce the committee for the next year supporting me as I continue as Chair.

Vice Chair: Mrs Bullock

Treasurer: Miss Pearson

Secretary: Amy Wilson Phillips

Publicity: Kathryn Spence

We'll be asking for support from parents at events this year so if you can volunteer your time, we'd really appreciate it. The full calendar of events has been shared already here so please reach out if you can offer any support.

Full minutes from last night's meeting will be shared shortly.

Our first event is fast approaching - join us for our New Year Quiz! Tickets will be going on sale today through ParentPay but spaces are limited so please don't wait! Everyone attending needs a ticket, including children.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Rebecca Perkins

Tel: 01257 276688 (8:15am-3:45pm)

Email: office@primrosehill-euxton.lancs.sch.uk

Out of school Club, please contact Sarah Collison 07548 944202 or s.collison@primrosehill-euxton.lancs.sch.uk



HIGH SCHOOL OPEN DAYS

Please see below the details of the upcoming High School Open Evenings, including the dates and times, for your information.

We hope you find this helpful.

High School Open Days	
St Michaels	Thursday 10th September 5.30pm-8pm
Parklands	Thursday 01st October 5pm-8.00pm
Southlands	Thursday 17th September 4pm-7pm
Albany Academy	Thursday 24th September 5pm-8pm
Holy Cross	Thursday 08th October 4.30pm-7pm
Leyland St Mary's	Wednesday 23rd September 4.30pm-7.30pm
Wellfield Academy	Thursday 17th September 4.30pm-7.30pm
Wordan Academy	Thursday 24th September 4pm-7pm
Balshaws	Thursday 01st October 5.30pm-8.30pm

£1 IN A BOX



£1 in a box is open to all parents with ParentPay and all staff. For each £1 paid you will be allocated a number ie: £1 equals one number, £5 equals five numbers.

The draw will take place on **Monday 7th December 2026** and the winners will be announced in the Wednesday Weekly on the **9th December 2026**. Half the money raised goes to the PTA and the other half is split 60/40.

Good Luck!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

One Way System

Just a reminder that the one-way system involves travelling down Primrose Hill Road, passing school on your left hand side and exiting left or right via Cedar Avenue and operates between the hours of 8.25am – 9.00am and 2.50pm – 3.20pm. By adopting this route, two exit points are available off the estate.

Please could you also refrain from parking on any yellow lines. They are there for everyone's safety.



SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO PENALTY NOTICE CHARGES

The DfE have recently announced national charges to penalty notices issues for unauthorised absences in term time, these came into effect on the 19th August 2024.

- Penalty notices issued for the offence after the 19th of August 2024 will be charged at the new rate of £160.00 however if paid in 21-days this reduces to £80.00.
- Any second penalty notice to the same parent for the same child in a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160.00 to be paid within 28-days with no option for a discount.
- Penalty notice threshold is 10-sessions equivalent to 5-days of unauthorised absence in a rolling 10-school week period.
- Maximum of 2-penalty notices may be issued for the same child within a rolling 3-years period, so at the 3rd or subsequent offence another course of action will need to be considered such a prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions.

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Email: office@primrosehill-euxton.lancs.sch.uk

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Pupil Achievements and Celebrations

Super Pupils

YEAR 6

Everest - Sophie G
K2 - Reuben T

EYFS

Beech - Lucas C
Oak - Reevean P

YEAR 5

Mont Blanc - Harry W
Olympus - Lila B

YEAR 1

Ash - Aaron S
Cedar - Delilah L

YEAR 4

Ben Nevis - Alex R
Snowdon - Lewis S

YEAR 2

Maple - Eloise P
Elm - Penelope P

YEAR 3

Pendle - Grace L
Rivington - Joshua J

House Point Winners

KS1
Blue

KS2
Blue

Reminders And To Do



We are a **NUT FREE** school. Please **do not** bring any snacks into school which contain nuts, including Nutella, Reese or Kinder Bueno products.

School Notices

Y5 Class Notices

Y5 Hothersall Lodge - To secure your child's place on the Year 5 Hothersall Lodge trip, the deposit needs to be paid by 25th September 2026.

Y6 Class Notices

Y6 Boreatton Park - 2nd payment due 25th September 2026.

Dates for the Diary 2026-2027



September 2026

- 16th EYFS Stay & Play - 3.15pm-3.45pm
- 18th Primrose Buds - 9.00am-10.15am
- 18th Tempest Photography-Individual & Siblings School Photographs *
- 21st Open Day - 9.15am-10.15am
- 22nd Y5 Hoghton Tower Trip
- 23rd EYFS Stay & Play - 3.15pm-3.45pm
- 23rd Y6 SATS Meeting for Parents - 4.00pm-4.30pm
- 24th Y4 Ben Nevis Martin Mere Trip
- 24th PTA New Year Quiz - 6pm
- 25th Y4 Snowdon Martin Mere Trip
- 25th Y6 MacMillan Coffee Morning - 9.00-11.00am**

October 2026

- 2nd European Day of Languages
- 6th Y3 Harvest Festival - 9.15am
- 7-13th Book Fair
- 9th World Mental Health Day
- 12th Parents Evening
- 14th Open Day - 9.15am-10.15am
- 16th Primrose Buds Autumn Forest School - 9.00-10.15am
- 21st EYFS & Y1 Halloween Disco - in school
- 21st Y2 & Y3 PTA Halloween Disco -5.30pm-6.30pm
- 21st Y4, Y5 & Y6 - PTA Halloween Disco - 6.45pm-7.45pm
- 22nd PTA - Non Uniform Day
- 22nd End of Autumn Term 1
- 23rd INSET DAY
- 26th-30th AUTUMN HALF TERM HOLIDAY

November 2026

- 2nd Return to School for Autumn Term 2
- 16th Odd Socks Day
- 19th Open Day - 1.45pm-2.45pm
- 20th Non Uniform Day - Children in Need
- 20th Primrose Buds - 9.00am-10.15am
- 25th Y6 Liverpool World Museum Trip
- 27th PTA-Non Uniform Day-Chocolate/Bottle donation

December 2026

- 2nd Autumn Rocksteady Concert - 9.30am & 2.15pm*
- 3rd PTA Christmas Shopping Night
- 4th PTA - Reindeer Run
- 4th Primrose Buds - Reindeer Dash 9.00am-10.15am
- 9th EYFS, Y1 & Y2 Pantomime
- 10th Christmas Jumper Day
- 11th ROCK KIDS!
- 14th KS2 Panto - Octagon Theatre - Cinderella
- 16th Report Cards
- 17th Y5&Y6 Carol Concert - in school 9am *
- 18th Final day of Autumn Term 2-MERRY CHRISTMAS!

January 2027

- 4th Start of Spring Term 1
- 7th Open Day - 9.15am-10.15am
- 29th Primrose Buds - 9.00am-10.15am

February 2027

- 9th Safer Internet Day
- 11th Y1, Y2 & Y3-PTA Valentines Disco - 5.30pm-6.30pm
- 11th Y4, Y5 & Y6-PTA Valentines Disco - 6.45pm-7.45pm
- 12th PTA - Non Uniform Day
- 12th End of Spring Term 1
- 15-19th SPRING HALF TERM HOLIDAY
- 22nd Start of Spring Term 2
- 22nd World Thinking Day, Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts can wear their uniform
- 26th Primrose Buds - 9.00am-10.15am

March 2027

- 3rd Y1 Lowry Visit (in school)
- 5th World Book Day
- 15th Parents Evening
- 18th Y2 Helmsore Mill Visit *
- 19th PTA Non Uniform Day - Chocolate donation
- 19th Primrose Buds - 9.00am-10.15am
- 24th Spring Rocksteady Concert - 9.30am & 3.15pm *
- 24th Report Cards
- 24th PTA Bunnies Bingo - 6pm
- 25th Easter Bonnet Day
- 25th PTA - Non Uniform Day
- 25th End of Spring Term 2 - HAPPY EASTER!

April 2027

- 12th Start of Summer Term 1
- 12th Y5 Bikeability
- 13th Y5 Bikeability
- 15th Y5 Bikeability
- 16th Y5 Bikeability
- 23rd Primrose Buds - 9.00am-10.15am
- 29th Y4 Ben Nevis - Cuerden Valley Trip
- 30th Y4 Snowdon - Cuerden Valley Trip

May 2027

- 3rd May Bank Holiday
- 4th EYFS 2027 New Starters Parents Evening-6.15pm-7.00pm
- 10-13th Y6 SATS Week
- 20th PTA May Fair - 6.00pm-8.00pm
- 27th Sports Day
- 28th PTA - Non Uniform Day
- 28th End of Summer Term 1
- 31st May Bank Holiday

*New date added

**Information or date amended

Dates for the Diary 2026-2027



June 2027

7th INSET DAY
8th INSET DAY
9th Start of Summer Term 2
14-16th Y5 Hothersall Lodge Residential
16th Y6 Enterprise Day
17th Sports Day (reserve date)
22nd Y1 Bring Yer Wellies Trip
23rd Y1 Bring Yer Wellies Trip
23rd Y2 & Y6 Childsafe - 10.30am
24th Y2 Bee Centre Visit
25-28th Y6 Boreatton Park Residential
28th EYFS 2027 Pupil Visits - 9.00am-11.15am
29th EYFS 2027 Pupil Visits - 9.00am-11.15am
30th EYFS 2027 Pupil Visits - 9.00am-11.15am

July 2027

1st Y4 Ben Nevis Sleepover
2nd Primrose Buds - 9.00am-10.15am
2nd Y4 Ben Nevis Tea Dance - 10.00am
7th Y6 Leavers Performance - 6.00pm
8th Y4 Snowdon Sleepover
9th Y4 Snowdon Tea Dance - 10.00am
12th Meet the Teacher - 3.15pm
12th EYFS to Y1 Parents Transition Meeting - 6.00pm
14th Summer Rocksteady Concert - 9.15am & 2.15pm *
16th End of Year Report Cards
19th Y6 Leavers Assembly - 2.00pm
20th Y6 Flower Bowl Trip
20th Final day of Summer Term - HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
21st INSET DAY

We'd also encourage you to visit the school website and explore the NEWS & EVENTS section, where you can subscribe to the school calendar. It's a simple and convenient way to keep up with everything happening across the school and make sure you don't miss any important dates, activities or special events. We look forward to sharing lots of exciting moments with you throughout the year.

*New date added

**Information or date amended

SPACE DAY

THURSDAY
1st October

Meteor Meatball Marinara
&

Solar Spaghetti
with

Galactic Garlic Bread
or

Cosmic Cheese & Onion Roll
with

Planet Potato Wedges & Lunar Peas
or

Jupiter Jacket Potato
with

Choice of Fillings & Salad Selection

Sonic Boom Rocket Ice Lolly
or

Super Moon Cookie
with

Frontier Fruit Wedges



EUXTON PRIMROSE HILL

Primary School

"Together we will make a difference."

OPEN DAYS

Monday 21st September 2026

Morning - 9:15am - 10:15am



Wednesday 14th October 2026

Morning - 9:15am - 10:15am



Thursday 19th November 2026

Afternoon - 1:45pm - 2:45pm



Thursday 7th January 2027

Morning - 9:15am - 10:15am

**To book a place please call: 01257 276688
or scan the QR code**



Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

"Pupils flourish at this warm and welcoming school."

"Pupils' behaviour across the school is exemplary. Pupils are polite, caring and thoughtful."

"The school is highly ambitious for all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)."

Ofsted - July 2024



**EUXTON
PRIMROSE HILL**

Primary School

"Together we will make a difference."

Primrose Buds

Free play and stay sessions for children aged 4 and under

Autumn session dates

Friday 18th September 2026

Friday 16th October 2026

Friday 20th November 2026

Friday 4th December 2026

9am - 10.15am in the upper hall

Drinks

Songs

Toys

Stories

Friends


Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

To book please call: 01257 276688
or scan the QR code



CHORLEY INFERNO

A stylized netball with a white and grey pattern, surrounded by red and orange flames, positioned to the right of the word 'INFERNO'.

RECRUITING SCHOOL YEARS 1-9

Message us on  or call 07990 766423

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- Smart materials designed around the National Curriculum.
- Step-by-step approach makes learning easier and more fun.
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Students from ages 5 to 16

Email and phone support

EUXTON

LEARNING CENTRE

Whatever your tuition needs, we can give your child a head start, help them excel or overcome challenges.



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CMA Ryu Martial Arts Classes

**Build Confidence. Learn Self Defence.
Make Friends.**

Classes for Children, Teenagers & Adults in Euxton

Every Friday at Euxton Community Centre
Junior Class (6-13yrs) 17:30 to 18:15
Senior (14yrs +) 18:20 to 19:20

New Students always welcome

**First Two
Lessons are Free**

About the Instructor: Shihan Kenyon-Court is a DBS
Checked 5th Degree Black Belt with 40+yrs experience

Contact us on 07876 342 109

E-Mail us at: cmaryu2021@hotmail.com

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram: @cma_ryu

Proudly supporting the self defence needs of families
and individuals in the Euxton & Chorley Area



Buckshaw and Euxton Baby & Kids Free Clothes Swap

Saturday 24th of October 2026, 10:00-12:00

**St Mary's Church, Euxton, Social Centre (back room),
PR7 6JW**

Bring **washed** old/outgrown clothes **sorted** into the following sizes:

- Premie
- Newborn/ up to 1 month
- 1-3 months
- 3-6 months
- 6-9 months
- 9-12 months
- 12-18 months
- 18-24 months
- 2-3 years
- Then by year from 4-11

Bring a bag and leave with new clothes in the right size

If you are looking for newborn clothes, please just come without any donations to take some things for your new arrival!

School uniform is welcome, but do please use your school's schemes

A table for miscellaneous other items also available

Tea, coffee, squash and cakes available to buy. Proceeds going to hall hire/charity

If you have clothes that you would like to drop before the event or have any questions, please contact Andy at lunn.andrew@gmail.com



Our Open Evening

will take place on Thursday 1st October 2026
from 5.30pm to 8.30pm.

Please see our website for full details - www.balshaws.org.uk



Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path (Psalm 119, vs 105)
Lighting the path to excellence through Christian vision and values.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership, and governance. He works internationally, supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance, as well as teaching the key fundamentals of AI use and safety to educators at The National College.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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