



FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Safeguarding Newsletter: Autumn 2, 2023

"Safeguarding... Everybody... Everyday"



Who to contact if you have concerns about a child:

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies straightaway.

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

If you have urgent concerns for a child, or suspect that a child has been abused in anyway and needs an urgent response, please call the Cumberland Safeguarding Hub immediately on 0333 240 1727.

Meet the Safeguarding Team at Fairfield Primary School:



Mr. C. Steele
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mr. J. Gale
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs. H. Birkett
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mrs. L. Barrow
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mrs. C. Jones
Safeguarding Governor

Mr. J. Gale (the Designated Safeguarding Lead- DSL) can be contacted via email (deputyhead@fairfieldprimary.co.uk), via Dojo or by telephoning the school office on: 01900 821133.

Our Policies:

For a copy of our school's Child Protection Policy, and other related safeguarding policies, please visit the safeguarding page(s) on our school website: [Safeguarding | Fairfield Primary School](#)

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Dear parents/guardians,

Welcome to our second safeguarding newsletter at Fairfield Primary School. These half-termly newsletters aim to provide you with key information and the latest guidance in relation to safeguarding and keeping children safe in education.

The term is progressing so quickly and it is wonderful to see how well the children have already achieved since their return in September. Our EYFS pupils have settled beautifully and the rest of the school transitioned to their year groups with very few problems – a testament to the amount of preparation that was done to aid this process.

With the evenings drawing in and the various autumnal festivals in full swing, I'm sure many minds will soon be turning towards Christmas and the events that come with it. Whilst Christmas can be an exciting time, we know that for some it can also be difficult for many reasons, especially given the current economic situation- hence our Poverty Proofing Initiative. We are here to support any families who may find the coming months difficult so please do get in touch if you are worried; we can signpost you to local services who may be able to help.

In the following pages, you can find information about road safety, Anti-Bullying Week as well as the regular online safety section, tips for helping children stay safe while out and about in the dark and the Operation Encompass strategy that we are proud to be part of.

As ever, if you require any support, guidance or further information, please do not hesitate to either speak to me in person or contact me directly.

Mr. J. Gale (Designated Safeguarding Lead).

Operation Encompass:

Our school participates in a national scheme called 'Operation Encompass', which is a joint partnership between Cumbria Police and schools.

One of the principles of Operation Encompass is that all incidents of domestic abuse are shared with schools, not just those where an offence can be identified. This system has been established to help schools provide in-house support to children who have been present at, exposed to or involved in any domestic abuse incident.

We know that children can be significantly harmed physically and/or emotionally during these situations and that it negatively affects their learning and behaviour. Therefore, as part of the Operation Encompass procedure, and to help mitigate the resulting negative impact, information is shared by the police with a school's trained Key Adult (DSL) prior to the start of the next school day after officers have attended a domestic abuse incident thus enabling appropriate support to be given, dependent upon the needs and wishes of the child. We are then able to use this information to provide the right support to any child and their family as and when it is needed.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS
In every force. In every school. For every child.

Road Safety:

On at least an annual basis, we dedicate time in our whole-school assembly timetable to remind the children of key information in relation to Road Safety.

We held this assembly last half-term. As ever, it is vital that the key messages, including the ones outlined below, are reinforced by parents/guardians at home so together we can ensure our pupils are fully educated on this essential aspect of personal safety. This is, of course, particularly important for our older children, who may walk/cycle to school independently. We always advise that any independent commuters, practise a safe route to school with a trusted adult beforehand- including understanding where it is safe to cross any roads.

Some key messages:

- Manage distractions: minimise talking/ no texting/ looking at technology/ listening to music on the roadside.
- When travelling inside of a vehicle, always wear your seatbelt and do not cause distraction to the driver.
- Remember the Green Cross Code, i.e. find a safe place to cross (do not cross between parked vehicles/ on corners- ideally use a zebra/pelican/puffin crossing); stop before the kerb; look both ways (repeatedly) and listen for traffic; when it is safe, cross the road but continue to keep looking around and do not run.
- Make sure you are seen! On dark evenings/mornings, make sure you stand out by wearing reflective clothing/ some sort of appropriate light (further information below).

As part of our Safeguarding and PSHE Curriculums, children engage in specific Road Safety work and linked activities.



Be Bright, Be Seen:



5 top tips on how to be bright and be seen...

1. Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when children are heading to and from school.
2. If children are out and about when it's dark, they should wear reflective items to make sure they can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
3. Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your child's clothing or school bag are a great way to improve their visibility.
4. If your child likes to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
5. Of course, 'Being Bright' helps drivers to see children more clearly but that won't guarantee to keep them road safe. They will still need to make sure that they follow the road safety advice (above).

For more information and activities to do with your child(ren) please visit: [Be bright be seen game – THINK!](#)

Online Safety- What parents need to know about EA Sports FC 24:

What's the most prolific partnership in recent football history? How about EA and FIFA? Their collaboration produced the most popular sports video game series of all time with 325 million copies sold worldwide. EA Sports FC 24 – the makers' new solo offering – now hopes to emulate FIFA's success. Find out whether it keeps a clean sheet against FIFA's traditional online safety risks with the following handy guide for parents (which can be found on the final page of this newsletter). Moreover, please note the following age-ratings:

Grand Theft Auto – 18

Call of Duty – 16

Fortnite – 12

We are aware of a small number of children in school who are playing these games, which are rated above the age range of primary education. Please be mindful of what children are exposed to on these platforms.

Useful Safeguarding Acronyms and Vocabulary:

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead

MASH: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

CP: Child Protection

CIN: Child in Need

KCSIE: Keeping Children Safe in Education

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

CAMHs: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

SEND: Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Anti-Bullying Week 2023:

Every November, many schools throughout the United Kingdom take part in Anti-Bullying Week. This is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on bullying and consider the steps we can take together to prevent it. Anti-Bullying Week 2023 is taking place between Monday 13th and Friday 17th November and it has the theme: 'Make a Noise about Bullying'. As part of this celebration, on Monday 13th November it is... **ODD SOCKS DAY!**

Yes, that's right, once again we are asking all children, staff, parents, guardians (and even the family dog!) to wear odd socks to celebrate the fact that we are all unique. The children will be taking part in various activities during the week, all of which focus upon the messages of 'making a noise about bullying', 'trusted adults' and 'spreading kindness'. As a school, we feel it is vitally important to mark this occasion and remind the children of the significant messages associated with Anti-Bullying Week.

Pupils' socks can be as plain/extravagant as you are able to manage. Children are welcome to have their socks over trousers/tights on this day and should be in uniform as per usual.

In-line with our Poverty Proofing Initiative, we are not asking for any donations.

Most importantly, Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity for children to express themselves and celebrate their uniqueness.

Across the week, we will have a series of different activities to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week. Children will engage in special assemblies where important information will be shared; participate in a specially planned PSHE lesson; and engage in our 'Book with a Buddy initiative'.



Online Safety (E-Safety): 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 EA SPORTS FC 24

After two decades of holding the official FIFA licence, EA Sports' phenomenally successful football video game series has embarked on a solo run at goal. This season's iteration marks the debut appearance of a new name and branding, but don't let those fool you – EA Sports FC 24 is still a very similar proposition to last year's FIFA 23. Popular features such as Ultimate Team remain a big focus, meaning that potentially costly in-game spending is still among the line-up of risks that parents and carers should be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE RESTRICTION

PEGI 3

RECURRING RELEASES

EA Sports FC 24 effectively picks up the FIFA template – meaning that after a year, we can expect EA Sports FC 25 to hit the shelves. Updates between versions of the FIFA franchise tended to be minor, but young fans of the game are almost certain to want the new edition in around 12 months' time, so they can keep playing with updated team kits, players and squad lists.

ULTIMATE TEAM SCAMMERS

Since the mode was introduced, Ultimate Team has been a target of scammers who attempt to coax players into buying or selling outside the terms of service from EA and console manufacturers. This shady practice can lead to accounts being banned and in-game items being lost. In some cases, young gamers have also been hoodwinked into handing over their payment details to the fraudsters.

OFFENSIVE VOICE CHAT

FIFA 23 introduced cross-platform play, and EA Sports FC 24 goes a step further with Clubs, Seasons and Ultimate Team cooperative modes across PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X and S, and PC. That's exciting news for youngsters who love to play with friends online – but connecting a much wider audience does potentially open lines of communication between children and far older online gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

Just like real-life football, EA Sports FC 24 offers a thrilling, dynamic blend of tactical awareness and skill that fans find absolutely engrossing. Among younger players in particular, this could lead to indicators of a gaming disorder as they plead for "just one more game" before bedtime or spend practically all weekend playing more matches to earn additional Ultimate Team packs.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONTROL SPENDING

If your child enjoys Ultimate Team mode, check that your payment details aren't linked to their account. Bundles of FC Points (the game's currency) start at just £1, so multiple payments can easily slip under the radar. You could consider setting your child an in-game allowance, perhaps through a prepaid card, which will help them to realise that online spending has a real-world effect.

DEFEND AGAINST SCAMMERS

EA does contact players via email (although not to ask for usernames or passwords, so watch out for that scam tactic), but never through the game itself – so be wary of incoming messages and consider blocking and reporting suspected spam. Your child should avoid buying coins (the in-game currency) from external sites; it could end with them losing their money and being banned from the game.

AVOID EXTRA TIME

Many parents of young football-oriented gamers worry about their child playing too much EA Sports FC. There's now also a companion mobile app, which can also often provide another indicator that a child is struggling to disengage from the game. You could initiate discussions around set hours of play – or take stronger action by utilising the parental controls on their console or phone.

SHOW TOXIC CHAT THE RED CARD

Playing EA Sports FC 24 with friends is highly enjoyable, but if competitive types start to turn toxic online, it can ruin everyone's fun. You could occasionally listen in on the voice chat of your child's game for any warning signs that things may be about to boil over. This goes double when playing online with strangers: voice contact with unknown players can be turned off in the game's settings.

CELEBRATE THE VARIETY

Ultimate Team may be the game's 'star player', but there's plenty more to do in EA Sports FC 24 – including modes which allow access to all of football's big names without needing to spend money on packs to unlock them. This new version of the game includes even more women's teams, marking another step forward in representation: an important subject to discuss and celebrate with children.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GCRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.





National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.windowscentral.com/youngster-spends-over-8000-lita-voice-highlighting-predatory-game-designers-also/>, <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/addictive-behaviours/gaming-disorder>, <https://www.eurogamer.net/18-european-countries-call-for-better-regulation-of-loot-boxes-following-new-reports>

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