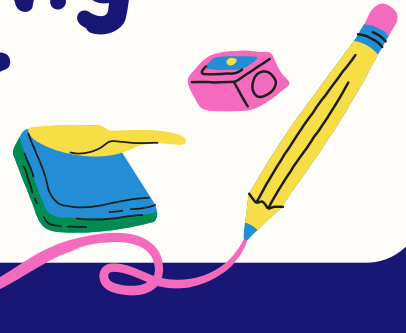


Longmoor CPS Safeguarding Newsletter

Autumn 2025



Our Safeguarding Team

The Safeguarding Team guides and co-ordinates our whole-school approach to keeping children safe. They attend ongoing training to keep their knowledge fresh.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs. E. Garside

Deputy Safeguarding Leads:

Mr. M. Garside, Mrs. A. Haynes and Miss E. Carroll

Safeguarding Governors:

Mr. M. Rea and Mrs. G. Robinson

If you have concerns about a child, the safeguarding team can be contacted via the main office on 0151 5215511.



Operation Encompass

From the 1st April 2021, Operation Encompass reports to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced any domestic abuse.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a trained member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, liaises with the police to use information that has been shared, in confidence, to provide support for children, and their families, who have experienced a domestic abuse incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

The two designated Key Adults at Longmoor are Mrs. E. Garside and Miss E. Carroll.

If you are experiencing domestic violence, please speak to one of our DSLs.

Spotlight British Value: Individual Liberty

It's a British value that means we get to make choices about things we like, as long as it is safe and does not hurt anyone.

In school, we use this liberty by choosing our hobbies in after-school clubs, expressing ourselves in art projects, or even deciding how to play a game during playtime.

But remember, with this freedom comes the responsibility to respect the choices of our friends too!

Talk to your child about ways that they use individual liberty outside of school.

We would like to understand how confident you feel about this area about online risks. Help us by completing this brief multiple-choice survey using the link below:

<https://forms.gle/Jj1GEM9LubnzbuC66>

AI Chat Bots

What are AI chatbots?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbots – such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini and others are becoming more common in everyday life. Children may encounter them at school, in games or even through websites and apps. While these tools can be useful and fun, it's important for parents to understand how they work, the potential risks and how to keep children safe. AI chatbots are computer programmes that can hold a conversation with a person.

They can:

- answer questions (e.g. helping with homework or explaining a tricky topic).
- spark creativity (e.g. helping write a poem, story or quiz).
- support hobbies and interests (e.g. generating recipe ideas, sports facts or coding tips).
- provide entertainment (e.g. riddles, jokes or role-play style games).



When conversations can become concerning

Although conversations may start out innocent, there are risks to be aware of:

Unpredictable responses: chatbots sometimes give inaccurate, confusing or inappropriate information.

Role-play risks: a child may ask the chatbot to pretend to be a friend, character or even a parent figure. This can blur the line between fantasy and reality.

Sensitive topics: children may explore personal worries with a chatbot and the answers they receive might not always be supportive, accurate or safe.

Over-reliance: a child might start turning to a chatbot for advice instead of trusted adults.

Key message:

AI chatbots can be a useful tool, but they are not a replacement for safe, supportive human relationships. With guidance, supervision and open conversations, parents can help children explore this technology in a safe and balanced way.



Is your child old enough to go out without you?

As your child gets older, it's likely that they'll want to explore going out without you.

That might be playing 'out' with children in your area or going to local shops and parks with friends.

When they ask, it can be helpful to find out a few basic facts to help you make the right decision for both of you. You'll also need to ensure they can confidently recall their personal information, in case of an emergency.

Whilst there is no set age to allow your child out in the community, parents need to assess whether maturity levels can handle the risks in the local area.

Misinformation, Disinformation and Conspiracy Theories

As part of our ongoing work to help our children (and families!) stay safe and confident in the modern world, we have written this newsletter focusing on something really important: understanding the information we see online and in the media.

We're sharing this because we know that, for many of us, our news now comes from a much wider variety of sources than ever before — not just newspapers and TV, but also social media, online videos, group chats, and short clips on apps like TikTok or Facebook. While this gives us quick and easy access to information, it can also make it harder to tell what's true, what's opinion, and what's misleading. This information is designed to support you as adults in processing the news and information you see, as well as to help you guide your children in becoming thoughtful, responsible 'online citizens' who can explore the internet safely and make sense of the world around them.

What's the difference between misinformation, disinformation, and conspiracy theories?

Misinformation – False information shared by mistake.

Example: Someone might post that a school is closing early when it isn't true — not to cause trouble, but because they believed it themselves.

Disinformation – False information shared on purpose

This is often to mislead or create confusion.

Example: Fake stories made to stir up anger, fear, or disagreement online.

Conspiracy Theories – Stories claiming that secret groups or hidden plans are behind big events

This is often with no real evidence. These can spread very quickly on social media and can make people feel anxious or distrustful for no good reason.

What can we do as parents and carers?

Here are a few simple tips that make a big difference:

1. Pause before you share.

If something sounds shocking, worrying, or too good to be true, it's worth checking first.

2. Check the source.

Is it from a trusted news outlet, a verified organisation, or just a random post or video?

3. Talk with your child.

Children are growing up surrounded by screens — help them understand that not everything online is true.

Try asking:

"Where did that story come from?"

"Do you think this is someone's opinion or a fact?"

4. Use fact-checking websites.

Sites like BBC Reality Check, Full Fact, or Newsround are great for checking whether something is real or fake.

Why it matters

We want our children to grow up as curious, confident, and respectful online citizens who can think for themselves, stay safe, and make informed decisions.

When families talk about online information together, it builds trust, understanding, and resilience — the same values that guide everything we do in school through our DRIVE values: Determination, Respect, Integrity, Valour, and Excellence.

Thank you for taking the time to read our safeguarding update. By working together, we can ensure that every child in our school feels safe, supported, and valued. If you have any concerns or would like further advice, please don't hesitate to contact the Safeguarding Team.