

# SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

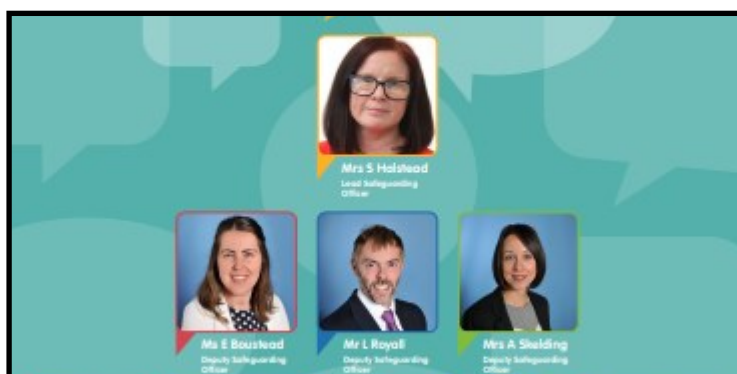
## Our Promise at Madeley School

Madeley School recognises its legal duty under Education Act 2002 (section 157 in relation to independent schools and academies) and the 1989 Children Act and takes seriously its responsibilities to protect and safeguard the interests of all pupils.

The school recognises that effective child protection work requires sound procedures, good inter-agency co-operation and a workforce that is competent and confident in responding to child protection situations. Safeguarding incidents can happen anywhere and staff should be alert to any concerns being raised. All staff may raise safeguarding concerns directly with Children's Social Care Services (see making referrals section of this policy).

**Welcome** to our third newsletter of the academic year. In this edition we would like to focus primarily on Online Safety, and also remind you of our safeguarding team here at Madeley School.

### *Our safeguarding team*



If you have a concern about any student of Madeley High please phone the school reception and ask for

- Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer: Sara Halstead ([sara.halstead@madeley.set.org](mailto:sara.halstead@madeley.set.org))
- Deputy Safeguarding Leads: [alexa.skelding@madeley.set.org](mailto:alexa.skelding@madeley.set.org) / [em-ma.boustead@madeley.set.org](mailto:em-ma.boustead@madeley.set.org) / [lee.royall@madeley.set.org](mailto:lee.royall@madeley.set.org)
- You can also speak to any of our extended safeguarding team:

Head of Year 7: Mrs S Walker: [stephanie.walker@madeley.set.org](mailto:stephanie.walker@madeley.set.org)  
Head of Year 8: Miss H Bentley: [hollie.bentley@madeley.set.org](mailto:hollie.bentley@madeley.set.org)  
Head of Year 9: Miss K Leath: [katie.leath@madeley.set.org](mailto:katie.leath@madeley.set.org)  
Head of Year 10: Mr S Walker: [stephen.walker@madeley.set.org](mailto:stephen.walker@madeley.set.org)  
Head of Year 11: Mr E Fleming: [elliott.fleming@madeley.set.org](mailto:elliott.fleming@madeley.set.org)

Please also take a look at our safeguarding pages on the school website.

Our focus this half-term is supporting **Safer Internet Day** which takes place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2025, with celebrations and learning based around the theme **‘Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online’**

Students in all year groups will be working with their form tutors on a range of activities to help them develop skills and strategies to keep themselves safe online.

### What are online scams?

An online scam is a deception carried out over the internet with the aim of tricking individuals into giving away personal, financial, or other sensitive information, or directly stealing their money. Online scams can take many forms, from phishing messages and fake online marketplaces to elaborate fraudulent dating profiles and too-good-to-be-true investment deals. What online scams usually have in common is their use of social engineering tactics to deceive, manipulate, and exploit victims.

### Most common online scams

1. **Phishing scams:** are one of the most common types of cybercrime reported where scammers will send emails or other messages pretending to be reputable companies in order to obtain individuals personal information, such as passwords or credit card numbers.
2. **Catfishing and dating scams:** involve fake romantic relationships, typically through dating sites or apps, or on social media. Scammers reel victims in with a fake online profile, complete with photos and a convincing backstory.
3. **Crowdfunding scams:** Scammers can abuse crowdsourcing platforms like GoFundMe and Kickstarter by whipping up fake campaigns designed to excite or tug at the heartstrings of potential donors. Once scammers collect a significant sum in donations, they abruptly cut off all communication and disappear.
4. **Fake antivirus software:** If you've ever seen a pop-up telling you that your computer is in dire need of antivirus rescue, you've come across this scam. Also known as scareware, these fake antivirus ads want you to panic and pay up in order to secure what you believe is the solution to your virus concerns.
5. **Online shopping scams:** In an online shopping scam, fraudsters pretend to be legitimate online retailers, using either a fake website or a fake ad on a real site. They'll often advertise luxury products at enticingly low prices, which is an initial tipoff that you're dealing with a scam.

### The signs to look for:

- ◆ Whether it's on social media, in a video game or through email or messaging, it's important to check that the **source is reliable**.
- ◆ If anyone online asks for **personal information**, payment details or any sort of action, be sure to confirm that it's real before doing so. Platforms will not send emails to ask this kind of information, and no one on social media or in-game should either. **TIP:** use different passwords for your accounts!
- ◆ While many online scams have become more sophisticated, there are some **tell-tale signs** to look out for that could suggest a scam:
  1. Spelling and grammatical errors
  2. Few reviews or low ratings of an items
  3. Comments from others calling something a scam
  4. Poor design and layout
  5. Expensive items for a very low price



If something feels off or like it's too good to be true, make sure you take time to look into it before clicking links or giving details.

You can find some good resources:

[Tackling online scams interactive guide for parents | Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tackling-online-scams-guide/)  
<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tackling-online-scams-guide/>

## Madeley School

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

### Tips for Parents and Carers: Keeping you and your loved ones safe online

#### *Enjoy going online together and talk regularly about your family's online lives*

Spend time with your child online to understand how they are using the technology and talk together about the good and the bad parts of being online. Make sure your child knows they can talk to you about anything.

#### *Take online security measures seriously*

A few simple steps can help keep you and your accounts secure. Use strong and separate passwords for online accounts and set up two step verification where it's available. You may also be able to set up parental controls to prevent unwanted online purchases and limit children's access to harmful content. See the link below for further advice:

<http://saferinternet.org.uk/online-issue/parental-controls>  UK Safer Internet Centre

#### *Look out for warning signs that someone or something online cannot be trusted*

"It just seems too good to be true!" – Other common signs of a scam include contact that you weren't expecting or being asked for money or personal information (think: bank or contact details, passwords, or phone numbers). Scammers use other tactics to manipulate their victims into paying, like playing with your emotions, or building a sense of urgency so you are rushed into making a decision. If you aren't sure it's reliable, don't risk it.

#### *Remember that anyone can be a victim of a scam*

Scammers are good at what they do and will target anyone. We all need to stay vigilant and support those who are most vulnerable including children and the elderly by helping them recognise what to look out for. If anyone in your family has been scammed, talk openly about it. There should be no shame in being victim to a scam and it's never your fault.

#### *Know where to get help if something goes wrong*

If you or someone you know has been the victim of a scam online, you're not on your own. Help is available and you are not to blame for what has happened. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, you can report fraud and cyber crime online to Action Fraud or by telephoning 0300 123 2040.

**Remember, if you or anyone else is in immediate danger, call 999 immediately.**

Home • Safer Internet Day 2025 • Quiz for 14-18 year olds



**SAFER INTERNET DAY 2025**

**Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online**

**Protecting yourself and others from scams online**

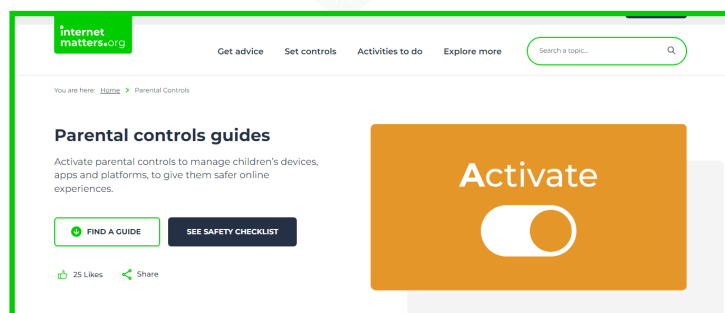
Safer Internet Day  
11th February 2025

The UK Safer Internet Centre has a great quiz to do with your child to test knowledge about keeping yourself safe online.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025/quiz-for-14-18-year-olds>

Many parents and carers contact us regarding parental control guides. [internetmatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org) have some great guides to how you can activate parental controls on children's devices, apps and platforms, to give them safer online experiences:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>



internetmatters.org

Get advice Set controls Activities to do Explore more Search a topic...

You are here: Home > Parental Controls

**Parental controls guides**

Activate parental controls to manage children's devices, apps and platforms, to give them safer online experiences.

FIND A GUIDE SEE SAFETY CHECKLIST

25 Likes Share

**Activate**

If you are a parent or carer for a child with SEND, the nspcc have partnered with Ambitious about Autism and have some great resources for you to use:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#SEND>

## *What your child is doing in school this week for Safer Internet Day*

### *Years 7-9*

Form tutors during morning registration are supporting students in understanding what scams are, the types and how to recognise the signs of a scam. The UK Safer Internet Centre have produced a range of resources and activities around this, with scenarios and examples to support your child's knowledge and understanding.

The will also be doing some work around online sexual extortion. This is a form of blackmail where somebody threatens to share nudes, sexual information or videos of someone unless the victim does what they say.

### *Years 10–11*

Form tutors will be doing work around online sexual extortion. This is a form of blackmail where somebody threatens to share nudes, sexual information or videos of someone unless the victim does what they say.

Students will also be doing some work around victim blaming and it's impact.

### **Further support for your child's wellbeing**

**If you have a child who is struggling with their wellbeing and needs to talk to someone when away from school, please use the contacts below:**

#### **Samaritans**

[116 123](tel:116123) (freephone)  
[jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)  
Freepost SAMARITANS LETTERS  
[samaritans.org](http://samaritans.org)

Samaritans are open 24/7 for anyone who needs to talk. You can [visit some Samaritans branches in person](#). Samaritans also have a Welsh Language Line on [0808 164 0123](tel:08081640123) (7pm–11pm every day).

Samaritans' helplines are open every day of the year.

North Staffordshire urgent mental health helpline: call [0800 0 328 728](tel:08000328728) option 1 (covers Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs Moorlands).

Advice for children & their families, from early help support through to safeguarding call Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support Service on [0300 111 8007](tel:03001118007)

For mental health support:

Visyon Call [01260 290000](tel:01260290000), out of hours support The Staffordshire Crisis Team on [0300 123 0907](tel:03001230907)

Young Minds [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

**For help with any sort of worry, big or small:**

NSPCC [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

Childline [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

#### **The Trussell Trust**

[0808 208 2138](tel:08082082138) (Help through Hardship helpline)  
[trusselltrust.org](http://trusselltrust.org)

Emergency food and support for people in need. Includes a searchable list of local foodbanks.

The Help through Hardship line is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. The helpline is closed on public holidays.