SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER



SUMMER TERM 2 - Issue 1

Advice to parents/carers

Safeguarding is an important issue for our children and young people. We have decided to have a half termly newsletter that shares key information and advice with parents and carers so that we can all work together with the same aim of keeping children safe in school, at home and in the wider community. Safeguarding relates to many areas of life at The Oswaldtwistle School including children's physical health and safety, mental health issues, attendance, managing medical conditions, internet safety, substance misuse, bullying, the dangers of radicalisation, child sexual exploitation, gang culture, FGM, neglect, domestic violence, forced marriages, sex and relationships education and British Values among other issues.

At The Oswaldtwistle School, we feel that it is really important to work with our parents/carers and with wider agencies that support schools and young people. This is so that we can offer a safe environment that allows pupils to be aware of the risks they may face and how to respond to them. We believe that our school curriculum gives our young people opportunities to explore many of these issues in a maintained atmosphere.

What is the role of the DSL at The Oswaldtwistle School?

The Designated Safeguarding Lead has a crucial role in taking lead responsibility for child protection issues in school. At The Oswaldtwistle School, we have three DSL'S forming a team, with Mrs Corns as the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Mrs McKenna and Miss Amin as the Deputy DSL.

A DSL is always available during school hours for staff and parents/carers to discuss any safeguarding concerns. The DSL is available from 8.30am to 4.00pm and DSLs are always contactable by email outside of these hours. We also have details of many external agencies that are available out of school hours.

DSL staff are trained to take on this role and their training is updated every two years with additional training and conferences in between. The DSL has many responsibilities including working with staff and agencies involved in safeguarding children, working with parents and families, giving advice to staff, training staff, managing referrals from staff, managing the records of safeguarding concerns, keeping their own knowledge up to date, etc.

Useful Acronyms & Vocabulary about Safeguarding

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead

DDSL – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

PREVENT: Part of the Government Counter Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn into extremism

Safeguarding – protecting pupils through the action that is taken to promote welfare and

protect from harm

LADO: Local Authority Designated Officer who deals with position of trust safeguarding issues

DBS: Disclosure & Barring Service used to make safe recruitment decisions

CHILD-TO-PARENT ABUSE (PEGS)

Child to Parent Abuse is complex and misunderstood. The parent support charity, Parent Educational Growth Support (PEGS), says this is partly because it has historically been largely ignored in favour of a focus on intimate partner abuse. Such abuse is drastically under-reported, as there are lots of misconceptions around the subject.

Some parents may not recognise what is happening to them as abuse – but the behaviours

Some parents may not recognise what is happening to them as abuse – but the behaviours they are experiencing are abuse and these behaviours are not okay.

Child-to-Parent abuse can take many forms including, physical abuse, emotional and psychological abuse, financial abuse, and sexual abuse. This can also extend to the rest of the household, including siblings and pets. A child's behaviour makes the parent feel fearful, scared, or forces them to change the way they parent because they fear another incident.

Find out more information on the PEGS' website here: https://www.pegsupport.co.uk/recognise-and-respond-to-cpa



Connecting Apps to be aware of......



WINK

Wink is a messaging app which allows children to connect and communicate with other users. In a similar style to Tinder, Wink uses the swipe method for browsing profiles and accepting or declining them. Once two users have accepted each other by swiping on each other's profile, they can then communicate and play games online together. The fact that Wink allows children to share photos, personal information and their location with other users has caused significant concerns.

In the below guide, you will find tips on several potential risks such as grooming, cyberbullying and inappropriate content.

National Online Safety

YUBO



Yubo is a location-based social networking app which used to be called 'Yellow' and has been dubbed 'Tinder for teens' in the media. This is due to its similarities with the adult dating app, in which users swipe to find matches. Its official guidelines do not permit users under the age of 13 on the app, while those aged between 13 and 17 must have parental permission.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as online grooming, privacy & security, and bullying.

National Online Safety

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



GE RATING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS? Wink is a messaging app which allows children to connect and communicate with other users. In a similar style to Tinder, Wink uses the swipe method for browsing profiles and accepting or declining them. Once two users have accepted each other by swiping on one another's profile, they can then communicate and play games online together. The fact that Wink allows children to share photos, personal information and their location with other users has caused significant concern.

POTENTIAL FOR GROOMING

Wink accounts can't be made private—so when a young person uploads images and shares their social media usernames, it's easier for potential groomers to stalk and locate them online. The fact that children prioritise having an abundance of friends is also a concern: they're more likely to accept someone just to build their friend count — possibly including users with sinister intentions.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

CVBERBULLVING

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

If you do decide to allow your child to have a Wink account – or you find that they already have one – it's vital to talk to them about how to use the app responsibly and keep themselves safe. You could also consider expioring Wink yourself and becoming familiar with the app before letting your child download it, as there are no security settings or parental controls that can be put into place.

OFFER YOUR SUPPORT

BE WARY OF SHARING

It's important that your child stays aware of what they're sharing online. Remind them about the importance of not posting personal information like their full name or which school they go to. Many users share their other social media account details on Wink to build their friend count, but we would recommend advising your child not to give strangers multiple avenues to contact them.

DISCUSS LOSS OF OWNERSHIP

BALANCE SCREEN TIME

BE CAUTIOUS OF NEW CONTACTS

Meet Our Expert





#WakeUpWeeneselay







HELLO



Yubo is a location-based social networking app previously known as 'Yellow.' It has been dubbed 'Tinder for teens' due to its similarities with the adult dating app, in which users swipe to find matches. Yubo allows users to

livestream themselves to anyone watching, and rate other users.



What parents need to know about



WHO IS USING YUBO?

yubo

WHO IS USING YUBU!

Although its official guidelines suggest the app is for people aged 18+, those aged between 13 and 17 can create a profile with parental permission. Furthermore, the app does not verify ages or identities upon sign-up, leading to fears that it could be exploited by those seeking to target children. Adults can set up fake profiles for sexual reasons, while children younger than 13, with access to the Internet, could pretend to be older than they are.

LIVE-STREAM FOOTAGE

Yubo states that it uses a combination of technical tools and human moderators to check the content created by Yubo, but since users can comment on footage in real-time this could mean that children could be exposed to derogatory or unpleasant language. Media reports indicate that teens are being pressured into undressing live on camera for strangers, sending nude photos, and are even lured into face-to-face meetings on Yubo. Any users can take screenshots or copies of live streams, alter them and share them with others.

SNAPCHAT

While the Yubo app doesn't directly link to Snapchat anymore – users still tend to share their Snapchat usernames on their profiles, making them very easy to add on Snapchat without ever speaking to the individual. On Snapchat, if your child's location feature is switched on, there is a high chance that strangers can find your child's exact location.

BULLYING & MENTAL HEALTH

The way Yubo works is that users 'swipe' to accept or decline to talk to someone. Whether users accept or decline is all based on their profile picture, meaning there is the potential that children could be left with low self-esteem if declined. Receiving comments about their appearance can have a negative impact on a child's emotional wellbeing, leaving them feeling less confident about how they look or how interesting they are. Bullying includes actions such as making threats or spreading rumours about people. As users have the ability to screenshot copies of live streams and private messages etc., they can use these screengrabs as forms of blackmail, making the person feel victimised, embarrassed and unsafe.

Top Tips for Parents



HAVE A CHAT

Start a conversation with your teenager so that they know how to stay safe online. Don't be embarrassed to talk about inappropriate online content with your children and look out for secretive or reserved behaviour when it comes to their Internet devices.

DISCUSS YUBO GUIDELINES

Take time to go through Yubo's Community Guidelines, which all users receive a link to, when they sign up to the app. Anyone who does not follow the guidelines may have their content removed or account suspended. Guidelines include advice on not posting any fake pictures or pretending to be anyone else.

YUBO GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS

Yubo offers a guide (http://parents-guide.yubo.live) to reassure parents about their child's usage. It explains how the app works, how children can stay safe and outlines its "fue-step approach to safety' including Sign-up, Profile Settings, Community Guidelines, Moderation and Reporting.

REMOVE LOCATION FEATURE

In their 'Profile' settings, children can hide their city and choose to connect with people who are only located within a certain radius of their location.

PROOF OF AGE

Yubo recently updated its security settings so that users who attempt to change their date of birth after signing up now have to send proof of ID to the app in order to verify the change.

ENCOURAGE RESPECT

Remind your teenager to always consider anything they are about to share online and to think about whether they would do that in the 'real world', or whether they are posting something they may regret at a later date. Encourage your child to think about the language they use online and to think carefully before making a comment on content posted by someone else.

AVOIDING UNEXPECTED IMAGES

Yubo suggests that teenagers ask the person they are talking with to share a picture of themselves with a spoon on their head to prove they are really who they say they are in their picture. Another tip is to avoid profiles with only one photo as these are often 'catfish' - someone who pretends to be somebody else by creating false identities.

AVOIDING UNEXPECTED IMAGES

Report any suspicious activity. You can report any concerns by clicking on the flag icon within the app or by visiting "Yubo's Safety, Centre' at http://safety.yellw.co. This includes pornographic, sexually implicit content, bullying, grooming and fake accounts.

PREPARE FOR 'GOING LIVE'

Yubo users can 'Go Live' during a chat with friends or choose to live stream 'Anyone' on Yubo. To help your child avoid sharing too much, help them to consider whether they really want the world seeing what they are doing. If they are going to watch streams they should also know how to report anything that makes them feel upset, uncomfortable



A whole school community approach to online safety

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Email us at hello@nationalonlinesafety.com or call us on 0800 368 8061

Snapchat Live Location....new feature

Snapchat have recently announced the release of a new feature: Snapchat live location sharing. It will allow users to share their real-time location with friends via the app, expanding their existing Snap Map feature that launched in 2017.



What is a Snap Map?

The Snap Map is a location sharing feature of Snapchat, which uses real time location to show users where you are and what building you are in. It is not currently clear when the new live feature will be launched globally.

What is Snapchat Live Location Sharing?

The new Snapchat feature is essentially a virtual 'buddy system'. The feature is designed to be used by close friends and family who want to share their location. For example, if two friends are meeting up in a busy location, then Snapchat Live Location can help them to find each other easily. Location sharing should only be used with trusted friends and family members. However, it is possible that a young person could be coerced or pressured into enabling the feature with someone they don't know in person.

For further information, tips see link below:

Snapchat Live Location Sharing - Inege Safeguarding Group

Friend finding App Hoop

Hoop is a social networking app that syncs with Snapchat to help users build their community of friends. It works along similar principles to Tinder: swiping left or right will reject or accept potential contacts, making new connections in the process. When two users accept each other, they can then communicate via Snapchat. There is no chat function on Hoop itself: video and audio calls, messaging, and image sharing all take place through Snapchat



calls, messaging, and image sharing all take place through Snapchat. When a user adds a new Hoop contact, they are essentially sharing their personal information from Snapchat. In the guide below, you will find tips on several potential risks such as grooming, visible location and a no age verification system.

Some threats that your children can face while using this App

- Meeting Strangers
- Sharing personal information
- Increase in screen time
- Teenagers are likely to connect with older people who may not have good intentions

Click link for advice and tips https://ineqe.com/2020/10/15/wink-hoop/

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



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No Age Verification



Visible Location

Grooming Risk

Potential Compulsive Use

Possible Data Collection

Advice for Parents & Carers

Learn How to Report and Block

If your child sees or is sent something that makes them feel uncomfortable, Hoop has a reporting and blocking function. When reporting a user, you are asked to provide a reason why you are reporting them (for example, nudity or sexual content, hate speech, or using a fake age or gender). You then get a notification that the other user has been reported or blocked.

18.

Limit Spending Power

If your child's device is linked to a bank card, a PayPal account or another form of payment, ensure that you have either removed this connection or adjusted the security settings so that you get notifications of any attempt to make in-app purchases. Make sure that you have set a password which has to be entered for a purchase to go ahead.

Avoid Over-Sharing

Talk to your child about what they share online and who they share it with. Make them aware that once something is online, then anyone can see it. Talk to them about what might not be safe to post online (for example, things which could give away their home address or that of their school, explicit photos or their current location). Make sure that they don't share something they will regret later.

Be Wary of Strangers

Talk to your child about the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Encourage them not to engage in private messaging with people they don't know – particularly on Snapchat, as automatically disappearing messages makes them difficult for trusted adults to monitor. Ask them to think about why they are adding all these connections and whether they genuinely need hundreds of 'friends' on Snapchat.

Adjust Privacy Settings

Check the privacy settings in place on your child's Snapchat account so that only friends or a custom group can see their stories, Snap Map and any images that they post. You may wish to seriously consider going into the settings and enabling 'ghost mode' to turn off the location services, s your child's whereabouts won't be publicly visible to other users.

Encourage Safe Communication

With the amount of time that young people spend communicating with others online, it's vital to ensure that these connections are positive and healthy ones. Regularly check which apps your child is using: if there are any new ones, talk to your child about what these apps are and how they work. If you are unsure about a new app, you could download it to try yourself and see if it is suitable.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, edu and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety polici academic papers and carried out research for the Aust use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, U



















PARENTAL ON-LINE SAFETY TIPS

Recent research has shown that young people are spending more time on electronic devices and online, since the COVID pandemic. It is important that we consider how we can help keep our young people stay safe online. Here is some information about what your child may enjoy online and what you can do to help keep them safe.

Online gaming

Online games are social activities, and most have features that allow young people to chat with others whilst they play.

For information about the positives of gaming, the risks of 'in-game chat' and measures you can take to help protect your child, watch this short video:

In-game chat: a guide for parents and carers

Sharing images and videos

Young people often share images or 'selfies' and there is potential for these to be nude or nearly nude images. Young people share 'nudes' for a number of different reasons, and some situations are riskier than others.

For information about the contexts in which images are shared and how best to respond, take a look at <u>nude</u> selfies: a parent's guide.

More information?

Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's Child Protection Command CEOP (NCA-CEOP). Their aim is to protect children and young people from sexual abuse online.

For more information, advice and guidance, visit their <u>parents website</u> and download their <u>home</u> <u>activity worksheets</u> for fun, online safety activities to do with your family.

Steps you can take to help keep your child safe online

You should engage in ongoing conversations around apps, games and sites that young people use. This will allow any concerns to be voiced. Remember that you should openly discuss when to unfollow, block or report any suspicious behaviours. For help starting this conversation, read <a href="https://example.com/harmonice-new-marked

Make sure young people know where to go for support. Remind your child that they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset. Remind them that they won't be in trouble for reporting behaviours. For a breakdown of report services, visit: Supporting your child with reporting unwanted content online

Young people can report any concerns about grooming or sexual abuse to CEOP at https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/ and they will be able to get support from a specialist Child Protection Advisor.

DIRECTORY OF AVAILABLE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

In times of crisis, help is available.

If you need urgent help as you or your child are in mental health distress, then there is always someone you can call.

The Lancashire Mental Health Crisis Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 0800 953 0110. It is staffed by trained mental health professionals who are able to provide assessment and referrals to appropriate services. Ring it if you need to access services or for advice about someone who needs treatment/support.

The Lancashire NHS Foundation Trust also have a **Wellbeing Helpline & Texting Service**, available **Monday to Friday 7pm - 11pm and Saturday to Sunday 12pm - Midnight** staffed by volunteers and those with lived experience, that offers emotional support. Ring if you want to chat about your mental health or are lonely. It can be contacted on **0800 915 4640** or by texting **'Hello'** to **07860 022846**.



Shout offers confidential 24/7 crisis text support for times when immediate assistance is required

Text "SHOUT" to 85258 or visit Shout Crisis Text Line

SAMARITANS

Samaritans 24/7 365 days a year - they are here to listen and provide support

Call: 116 123 or email: jo@samaritans.org

Crisis

resources here

Crisis Tools helps professionals support young people in crisis short accessible video guides and text resources Sign up for free

Papyrus provide confidential support and advice to young people struggling with thoughts of suicide, and anyone worried about a young person Call: 0800 068 41 41 or Text: 07860 039967 (opening hours 9am to midnight – 365 days a year)

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTHM

<u>Childline</u> confidential telephone counselling service for any child with a problem

Call: 0800 1111 anytime or online chat with a counsellor

Urgent and other support available

Good ::Thinking

Good Thinking is London's digital wellbeing service and provides a range of resources for young people to help improve mental wellbeing including free NHS-approved apps

THE MIX

The Mix provides free, confidential support for young people under 25 Call: 0808 808 4994 (11am – 11pm every day) or Email



Beat provide support to help young people who may be struggling with an eating problem or an eating disorder Call the Youthline (under 18's) 0808 801 0711 or Studentline 0808 801 0811 (9am – 8pm during the week and 4pm – 8pm on weekends and bank holidays)

keeth

Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous online mental wellbeing community including live chat with the team, discussion boards, magazine with helpful articles and a daily journal a magazine

NSPCC Dedicated Helpline 0800 136 663

This new dedicated helpline provides support to both children and adults who have experienced sexual abuse in educational settings or has concerns about someone or the issues raised. Support and advice include how to contact the police and report crimes if they wish.

The helpline will also provide support to parents too. More information is available at

Dedicated helpline for victims of abuse in schools NSPCC



Stop It Now! UK and Ireland

encourages adults to create a society that no longer tolerates the sexual abuse of children. There is a confidential and anonymous helpline and email service - 0808 1000 900 or live chat, secure email if you are not ready to speak to someone on the phone.

Click the following links: **Live chat - Stop It Now Stop It Now! Secure email**

Parents/Carers Learning Programme

Sexual Abuse Learning Programme (Parents Protect)

Parents Protect has developed this online child sexual abuse and exploitation awareness learning programme for parents/carers and professionals to help:

- **Understand potential risks**
- Recognise the signs of possible abuse in children
- Beware of inappropriate behaviour in adults
- Know where to go for help if you have concerns and would like to talk about them

Click here: <u>Sexual Abuse Learning Programme - Parents Protect</u>

On-Line Grooming



IWF safety campaign aims to help parents have conversations with their children about keeping their 'door' closed to child sexual abusers. The campaign includes a booklet for parents, explaining the risks, explaining why children are vulnerable, and suggests practical steps that parents can take.

TALK to your child about online sexual abuse. Start the conversation - and listen to their concerns.

AGREE ground rules about the way you use technology.

LEARN about the platforms and apps your child loves.

KNOW how to use tools, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.

For further details go to: https://talk.iwf.org.uk/

USEFUL ON-LINE SAFETY WEBSITES

National Online Safety - safety guides on ALL aspects of internet use

https://nationalonlinesafety.com/

Internet Matters - wide range of online safety advice for parents to keep their children safe on-line.

https://www.internetmatters.org/

EAL RESOURCES FOR ONLINE SAFETY

Please see below for useful websites to support your children, together with a link for leaflets in other languages that will assist you in keeping your children safe on-line.

Parents: Supporting Young People Online (Childnet)

https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Supporting-Young-People-Online.pdf

Leaflets available in other languages here https://www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online

- Arabic
- Bengali
- English
- Farsi
- French
- Hindi
- Polish

- Punjabi
- Somali
- Spanish
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese
- Welsh

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

The Oswaldtwistle School Safeguarding Team have been trained to an advanced level on all aspects of safeguarding. The team is available to any student, parent or school staff member to discuss and report any safeguarding concerns.

The team Members are as follows: **Designated Safeguarding Lead** -Mrs A Corns



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads - Mrs S McKenna and Miss
L Amin

Are all your contact details up to date?

If you change your home phone/email/mobile number, please let the school know, so that we have the most up-to-date contact details.

PARENTAL SUPPORT



During these extremely tough times, parents find themselves pulled in many different directions.

Concerns about COVID-19, financial struggles and household worries can create unwanted stresses.

Young Minds have created a useful 'Supporting Parents Help Finder'. By answering six questions, parents can find out how to support their child's mental health during the pandemic (and beyond). Find the help finder here:

https://youngminds.org.uk/supporting-parents/

If you are worried and need help, then please contact one of the following:

For children click here

childline
DNUME, DN THE PHONE, ANYTIMI
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111





Improving

health

children's mental

PARENTING SMART (Place2Be)

The children's mental health charity, Place2Be, has launched a new website aimed at helping parents with typical situations they may experience with children.

Advice can be found on over forty topics including:

Understanding sibling rivalry

My child is lying, what does it mean, what should I do?

My child has trouble going to sleep

My child says, 'I hate you!'

Cultural identity: who am 1?

The Parenting Smart website can be found here: https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/