Dear Parents and Carers, welcome to May’s Safeguarding letter.

It is difficult to know what to say as a parent in response to the conflict in Ukraine. Our young people become anxious that the war may spread wider and seeing all the footage on youtube of Ukraine can be distressing.

As a school we raised a significant sum of money to support medical care through the Sunflower of peace foundation for Ukraine which helped our young learners to feel that they are involved in a positive, supportive way.

Parents may ask:

* How much should my child know?
* How do you help them manage anxiety around what they see on social media and the news?

The **BBC Bitesize Parents Toolkit** helps parents with the best ways to respond to their natural curiosity this uncertain time. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/znsmxyc>

We would also suggest :

* Starting by finding out what your child knows already
* Tackle the news head-on and talk about it openly and calmly
* Stick to the facts
* Educate them about reliable sources of information
* Encourage your child to ask questions and share their feelings
* Reassure them and let them know it's normal to be concerned

**More information and guidance can be found here:**

https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/top-tips-for-talkingto-youryoung-person-about-the-events-in-ukraine/ Talking to Your Child About the War in Ukraine - Ineqe Safeguarding Group

Kind Regards

Andrew Grant -DSL

UkRAINE

Please look on our website for the many options for supporting you as a parent or Carer to support your child with online safety.

On the school website navigate to ‘Key Information’ scroll down to ‘ Safeguarding’ click the link to our Parents and Carers Online safety page .

You will find a wide variety of supporting articles and information aimed at giving you the tools to keep your child safe. For further help and advice please call and ask for Mr Grant or Mr Mullen.

Online SUPPORT

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 ( KCSiE2022)

Keeping Children Safe in Education is statutory guidance from the Department for Education in England. Schools and Colleges must follow it as part of carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare and wellbeing of children. This is updated each year to reflect changes in society and law and our Senior Leadership Team is working on the changes in the new 2022 version which will come into force in September 2022 and will appear on our website at the time of release.

Snapchat have recently announced the release of a new feature: Snapchat live location sharing which is essentially a virtual ‘buddy system’.

The feature is designed to be used by close friends and family who want to share their location.

Whilst this sounds like a great opportunity to keep tabs on your children whilst out and about , it is possible that a young person could be coerced or pressured into enabling the feature with someone they don’t know in person. Possibly when setting up a meeting with someone for the first time that they’ve met online.

As ever please don’t allow your child to meet up with a ‘friend’ unless it is someone that you know and are comfortable with them meeting and this should always be in a public place during daytime hours and preferably with an older sibling or parent nearby.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact our Safeguarding Team.

Snapchat news