



Willow Bank School Safeguarding Information for Parents / Carers

As part of Willow Bank School's commitment to safeguarding all of the young people in our care, it is important that we keep parents and carers informed about significant and emerging issues that may impact on the well-being of their children.



British Values & Extremism



We place a strong emphasis on British Values and the uniqueness of our Country. These include the right to a vote, an understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law, an acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, that these should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour and also an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

Recent terrorist attacks in Tunisia and France as well as the pupils who have travelled to the Middle East to join extremist groups highlighted how important it is for our young people to be made aware of extremism.

In school pupils have taken part in sessions to raise awareness of the dangers of Extremism. These sessions have helped to enable pupils to question and think about extremism, equality, prejudice, stereotyping and how easy it could be for young people via networking both in person and on the network to be drawn into behaviours that may be extreme and lead to dangerous consequences.

These sessions were delivered to inform and educate pupils so that should the need arise, they can make right choices.

All staff in school are encouraged to report any indication that pupils might be drawn into any form of extremism. We also encourage parents to let us know if they have any concerns in this area.

To find out what the government is doing to prevent extremism within education and children's services sectors search the link below.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-extremism-in-schools-and-childrens-services.

Guidance: Fire safety for parents and child carers

A useful leaflet has been compiled for parents and anyone looking after children, including childminders. Using the internet search the link below. The advice and tips provided here are very helpful.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-safety-for-parents-and-child-carers

Mobile phones & Smart watches

In accordance with our zero tolerance regarding mobile phones, smartwatches are also not allowed in school. We are a Special School and all our pupils are vulnerable. Smartwatches and mobile phones are a safeguarding issue and can be a distraction.

So what are the risks?

Identity theft	Online Influences
Threats	Trolling Inappropriate Websites
Grooming	Reputation
Stranger Danger	Personal information
Blackmail	Sexting
Cyberbullying	Financial theft
Future prospects	Location
ICT is the catalyst, not the cause	

Any pupil needing to make a genuine call may use the school landline. All mobile phones and smartwatches will be handed in upon arrival to school and returned at the end of the school day.

Safer Internet Day

This year's theme for Safer Internet Day is 'Play your part for a better internet'. Resource packs for 3-11 year olds and 11-19 year olds are now available, as well as a parent and carer pack. For more information and to access these useful resources search the following link: www.saferinternet.org.uk

Parents and Carers Website - This new website supports parents and carers in protecting their children from abuse online. The site provides advice for parents who are concerned about their children, as well as those just looking to learn more about what they can do to keep their children safe: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

Is your child sending inappropriate images? What Parents and Carers need to know!

With the rise of the selfie has come growing concern about young people taking and sharing revealing photos or videos – you've probably seen this referred to in the media as 'sexting'. This is risky behaviour for anyone, but especially for young people.

CEOP Child Exploitation & Online Protection <http://www.ceop.police.uk/> have produced lots of useful videos:

'Nude Selfies: What Parents and Carers need to know', is a 4 part animated mini-series specifically for Parents. The films cover topics including why nude selfies are so popular and why children do it, how to talk to your child about inappropriate selfies, how to respond if your child's image is being shared and where you can get help.

'Exposed' - This 10 minute drama has been designed for 14 to 18 year olds. 'Exposed' deals with the subjects of sexting and cyberbullying, issues that teenagers commonly face. You can watch Exposed on YouTube by clicking here

Top Tips for Parents about on-line safety

By following this simple checklist, you can protect your child and minimise the risks they face:



- a) **I have asked my child to show me sites they use** – By doing so, your child is including you in their online life and social activity. Show an interest and take note of the names of their favourite sites. You can then re-visit these when you are alone. Take your time and explore the space, find out how to set the safety features and learn how to report any issues directly to the site.
- b) **I have asked my child to set their profile settings to private** – Social networking sites, such as Facebook, are used by young people to share information, photos and just about everything they do. Encourage your child to set their privacy settings to private. They need to think about the information they post online as it could be copied and pasted anywhere, without their permission.
- c) **I have asked my child about their online friends** – We know that people lie online about who they are and may create fake identities. It is very important children understand this. Whether they are visiting a social network or a gaming site, the safety messages are the same.
- d) **I have set appropriate parental controls on my child's computer, mobile and games console** – Filters on computers and mobiles can prevent your child from viewing inappropriate and possibly illegal content. You can activate and change levels depending on your child's age and abilities. You can also set time restrictions for using the internet or games. They can be free and easy to install.

Explain to your child why you are setting parental controls when you talk to them about their internet use.

- e) **My child has agreed to tell me if they are worried about something online** – Sometimes children get into situations online where they don't feel comfortable or see something they don't want to see. By opening up the communication channels and talking to your child about the internet, their favourite sites and the risks they may encounter, they are more likely to turn to you if they are concerned about something.
- f) **I know where to get help if I'm concerned about my child** – The CEOP Safety Centre provides access to a range of services. If you are concerned that an adult has made inappropriate contact with your child you can report this directly to CEOP. You can also find help if you think your child is being bullied, or if you've come across something on the internet which you think may be illegal.

We encourage parents to monitor the online communication their child is having, most of which probably takes place during the evenings and weekends.

There are many warning signs that can help to identify children who are being groomed, or sexually exploited. It is vital to identify the early warning signs so that you can act swiftly. Please see below some of the most common language used by young people when communicating via text message and online, which could indicate abuse is happening and the young person is at risk of harm.

- P999 – Parent alert
- PAW – Parents are watching
- ASL – Age, sex, location
- CD9 – Parents are around
- WYRN – What's your real name?
- GNOC – Get naked on camera
- 420 – Marijuana
- LMIRL – Let's meet in real life
- PAL – Parents are listening
- PIR – Parents in room
- ADR – Address
- CYT- See you tomorrow
- WUF – Where you from?
- MOS – Mum over shoulder

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ceop> - This web link gives clear guidance and advice to parents on;

- Why young people send inappropriate selfies
- How to talk to your son/daughter about inappropriate selfies
- When you should be worried as a parent
- Where to get help

Online Grooming - Want more information on online grooming and further advice and guidance on keeping your child safe from abuse and exploitation? Then visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents .

I have concerns about my child - As a parent or carer it is important to seek support if you are concerned that your child might be being groomed. You can contact your local police, children's social care department or report directly to CEOP.

Concerns can also be discussed with someone directly via the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000.

If you believe your child is at immediate risk you should call 999.