



Safeguarding Update

Autumn 2024 - 2025



WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies straightaway.

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999

Meet the Designated Safeguarding Team:

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

- Mrs L Bassett-Cross

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:

- Mrs K O'Brien
- Mrs R Woodruff
- Mrs L Earl-Smith
- Mrs J Ireland
- Mr M Clifton
- Miss L Parker
- Mrs R Punchard
- Mrs Fyfe
- Mrs Tite

School Safeguarding Governor:

- Mrs P Alexander

You can contact the DSL team on:

dsl@woodstreet.surrey.sch.uk

dsl@worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk

The Safeguarding Team oversee and coordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe. They regularly attend training to ensure their skills and knowledge are up-to-date.

For a copy of our school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, please visit the federated website: www.wvfs.surrey.sch.uk

HOW TO ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY DURING PLAY DATES:

With the start of the new academic year, new friendships are formed. Sometimes our children receive playdate invitations from families we aren't very familiar with. While we want our children to enjoy time with their friends, their safety is paramount. It's perfectly acceptable to decline if your child is invited to a stranger's home. You can also suggest that the play date takes place with your supervision or at a local park where you can be present. When you decide to allow your child to visit someone else's home, it's normal to feel a bit uneasy. Don't hesitate to ask questions about the environment they will be in.

THE 'WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF...?' GAME

Before your child goes on a playdate without you, it is useful to make sure they know what to do in specific situations. One way of doing this is by playing the 'What should you do if...?' game. Some examples are:

- What should you do if someone asks you to do something you don't feel happy to do?
- What should you do if someone plays a computer game which has lots of blood and shooting in?
- What should you do if someone follows you into the bathroom?
- What should you do if your friend suggests watching a movie that you wouldn't be allowed to watch at home?
- What should you do if you want to come home?

Remember, it is ok to ask the host questions before your child goes on their playdate. Your child will have more fun if you are feeling relaxed about it too.

If you are still uncertain, suggest a play date at a local park or somewhere mutually convenient.

4 question to ask before your child goes on a playdate

Who will be supervising the children?

Ensure that a responsible adult will be present with the children and that they will not be left in the care of someone else, like an older sibling.

Will there be any other unknown people there?

It's crucial to be aware of whether your child will be in the presence of unfamiliar adults or other children.

What activities will they be doing?

Verify that the activities are both safe and suitable for your child's age. While flexibility is key, prioritising your child's safety is essential.

Are internet connected devices monitored?

Ensuring that your child cannot access inappropriate content on another person's device is vital for their online safety.

USING EMOJIS

Emojis are becoming an increasingly common method of communication for everybody. Emojis are simple to understand, quick to type and can get the tone of the message across. However, there are more and more emojis that are not appropriate for children to use that are being used without understanding their intended meaning. In order to help safeguard our learners it is not only important to understand the language they use but also the potential emojis they may use. The Children's Society have put together a list of emojis for both professionals and parents to be aware of.

https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/DEX004a_Emoji-Dictionary-A5-Leaflet_V2_DIGITAL.pdf





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USEFUL ACRONYMS & VOCABULARY ABOUT SAFEGUARDING

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead

Early Help: “providing Early Help support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child’s life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years”.

TAC: Team Around a Child TAC (part of Early Help)

TAF: Team Around the Family (part of Early Help)

CP: Child Protection

ciN: Child in Need

DV: Domestic Violence

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

Channel: A programme that provides support to people identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

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

GBV: Gender based violence is directed at an individual based on his or her biological sex or gender identity

County Lines: County Lines is when illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries usually by children/vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs.

CME: Children Missing Education



APPS AND AGE RATINGS REMINDER:



SLEEP

Here are our top tips for getting your child’s sleep back on track:

1. Ease into Earlier Bedtimes

Late nights can be a common habit during summer, and it can be tough to shake. Younger children need around 10–11 hours of sleep a night, while teens require around 9 hours. If bedtime has slowly shifted later over the holidays, try adjusting it in small, manageable increments. Move it earlier by about 15 minutes every few nights until they’re back to their regular school night schedule.

2. Limit Screen Time Before Bed

You’ve probably heard this one before, but it’s crucial—reduce screen time before bed. The blue light from screens can interfere with melatonin production, making it harder for your child to fall asleep. Instead of screens, encourage activities that are relaxing and engaging, such as colouring, doing a jigsaw puzzle, or playing with fidget toys. For younger children, there’s nothing like a traditional bedtime story to help them wind down.

3. Get Outside

Spending time outdoors is fantastic for your child’s mood and overall well-being, and it’s great for sleep too! Encourage outdoor play during the day, but as Sleeptember approaches, try to bring them inside earlier to prevent overstimulation before bed. Alternatively, an evening walk can help burn off any extra energy and promote relaxation before sleep, especially on those days when screen time has been higher than usual.

4. Talk About Sleep

Many young people don’t understand the importance of sleep, and some may even resist bedtime. Having an open conversation about why sleep is essential could be the key to helping them develop their own healthy relationship with sleep. You could explain how sleep helps restore their brains and bodies, giving them more energy for their favourite activities like playing video games, spending time with friends, and even staying sharp in school.

Getting children and teens to stick to a bedtime routine is never easy, especially after weeks of summer fun. However, easing them back into good sleep habits will do wonders for their mood, focus, and energy levels as they return to the classroom.