

Bourton Meadow Safeguarding Newsletter

Autumn Term 2022



Welcome to our latest edition of the newsletter from Bourton Meadow's Safeguarding Team. We aim to bring you all the latest, relevant help and advice on issues we feel will be of importance to you. Summer and the light evenings are a distant memory already.

This first edition, for the new school year gives safety tips for the darker evenings together with support and advice for online safety. The winter months mean more screen time unfortunately, so you need to be equipped with the latest trends and scams.

We are hearing more and more reports of online challenges popping up on social media platforms. While not all pose potential risk, it is important as a parent/carers and guardian to know how to handle an online challenge you may be concerned about.

What are Online Challenges?

Online challenges are social media trends where people take part in or mimic games, activities or dares. They typically originate on social media platforms like TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram before spreading to other platforms. Some challenges or online trends are reported by the press first. They tend to use the term 'viral', which can give the impression that the challenge or trend is more popular than it actually is.

Advice for parents

Talking to your child about online challenges can seem daunting, especially if they don't come to you on their own. Having an honest conversation with your child about their online habits is the best way to clear up confusions.

[OnlineChallengesAdvice_INEQE_2022-1.pdf](#)



ONLINE CHALLENGE TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Keep devices out of reach at night. Kids can text or send messages while you sleep.
- Monitor who your kids text and talk to online.
- Always talk to your kids about online challenges and why they are so dangerous.

HI MUM! SCAM ALERT!

We have recently been made aware of phishing scam known as 'Hi Mum' that has been circulating through text messages or instant messaging services, such as WhatsApp.

The scam involves the impersonation of friends or family members in order to gain access to your personal information. We strongly encourage you to read the article below for guidance on identifying phishing scams and how to deal with them if you have been targeted.

[Scam Alert – The 'Hi Mum' WhatsApp Scam - Incege Safeguarding Group](#)



WHAT ARE PARENT APPS?

The main purpose of parental control app is to monitor a child's online activity and limit potential encounters with inappropriate harmful content.

Each app is different and will offer different features, but most are likely to offer the following:

- ❖ Monitor search history
- ❖ Block websites or apps
- ❖ Schedule designated screentime
- ❖ View text and/or audio messages

WHAT ARE THE MOST POPULAR PARENT APPS?

With the growing number of risks the online world presents, parental control apps have grown in popularity. With so many different options out there for parents, we have

- ❖ Alert parents to a child's physical location.
- ❖ Tell parents who children are talking to online
- ❖ Show call logs and the numbers a child may be contacting/contacted by

For some, using a parental control app will seem like a natural step to prevent their child from seeing or experiencing something harmful, like wrapping them in digital cotton wool. Is it really the answer to online safety or are there pitfalls to avoid?

The online safety guide in the link below highlights the Pros and cons of using parent apps.

Better to have the choice than not

[Parental Control Apps – Online Safety Review - Inege Safeguarding Group](#)

CHILDNET SEN CHILDREN

There are relatively few resources to help children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Childnet has created a set of free, adaptable resources that cover the important topics of healthy relationships, digital wellbeing and online pornography and are designed to equip and enable parents and carers, to support young people aged 11 and over with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

[Parents and Carers Toolkit | Childnet](#)

INTERNET SAFETY

Essential internet safety tips

- #1: Make sure your internet connection is secure. ...
- #2: Choose strong passwords. ...
- #3: Enable multi-factor authentication where you can. ...
- #4: Keep software and operating systems up-to-date. ...
- #5: Check that websites look and feel reliable.



Be Smart on the internet

Be Safe Be Seen!

As the clocks go back and the nights draw in, it is an overnight adjustment for all of us keeping children safe in the dark. The darker evenings can have a big impact on our usual routines of picking children up from friends, after-school clubs, or cycling home from school. They can be very different experiences in the dark!

The following simple steps can be taken to help avoid additional risks of accidents that the dark evenings can bring.



VISIBILITY IS KEY

- Children need to be seen, not just by other motorists and cyclists but by other pedestrians. It is vital to teach your children good road safety basics from an early age.
- Think about what your child is wearing. Some school uniforms are dark. They are safe if they are visible - you can easily add high-visibility strips on their clothing, school bags or bike helmets.

WHAT ABOUT TEENS

As children grow up and become more independent, there are more risks that they may encounter as they start walking to school by themselves. Peak times for the number of fatalities or seriously injured are the 'school-run' periods between 8-9am and 3-4pm.

BE AWARE

As any parent knows it can be very difficult to get a teenager to part from their mobile phone. Whether they are talking to friends or listening to music on their mobile, they can be distracted. As a result, they are less aware of dangers in their surroundings such as other people or traffic. If your teenager insists on wearing their headphones, encourage them to use ear bud types and ideally only use one side. Often teenagers walk in packs and are chatting and showing off and simply not paying attention. Sadly, it is often on these occasions that accidents can occur.

[highwaycodeukrules-for-pedestriansl](#)



WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact any of our Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

The following members of staff who are Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

- Mrs Berry
- Mrs Bowden
- Mrs Byrom
- Mrs Harrison
- Mr Hawes

They can be contacted via the school office, or by telephone by 01280 823374.



Safeguarding Governor

Our Safeguarding Governor at Bourton Meadow is Penny Croucher.

The safeguarding governor's responsibilities include:

- Behaviour and recruitment of both staff and volunteers - Ensuring the school is following safe recruitment procedures and reviewing all activity and policy relating to the physical and emotional well-being of all children
- Seeking improvement to ensure the school follows best practice in creating a productive and safe environment for all.
- Penny can be contacted via the school office: office@bourtonmeadow.co.uk

