

Blacklow Brow Primary School Safeguarding Newsletter

Autumn Term 2023



Welcome to our first Safeguarding newsletter of this academic year. At Blacklow Brow, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's responsibility** and our top priority. Anyone who comes in to contact with children and their families has a role to play. We recognise that all staff and governors have a full and active part to play in protecting our pupils from harm, and that the child's welfare is our paramount concern. We ensure that anyone, paid or voluntary, who seeks to work in our school is safe to do so. Our school takes pride in offering a safe, caring, positive and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child free from discrimination or bullying where children can learn and develop happily. By sharing these newsletters with you, we hope you will see all of the work that goes in to keeping your children safe.



Report any concerns



If you suspect a child is being abused or is in danger of being abused please contact a Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Kenny or Deputy Safeguarding Lead Miss Walker. You can also contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on: 443 2600. **If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999**

Keeping children safe in education is statutory guidance that schools and colleges in England must have regard to when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It is essential that everybody working in a school or college understands their safeguarding responsibilities. All staff receive safeguarding training in September 2023.



We take part in Operation Encompass



Our school participates in a national scheme called 'Operation Encompass', which is a joint partnership between Merseyside Police and schools. One of the principles of Operation Encompass is that all incidents of domestic abuse are shared with schools, not just those where an offence can be identified. This system has been established to help schools provide in-house support to children who have been present at, exposed to or involved in any domestic abuse incident. We know that children can be significantly harmed physically and/or emotionally during these situations and that it negatively affects their learning and behaviour. Therefore, as part of the Operation Encompass procedure, and to help mitigate the resulting negative impact, the school receives and email the morning after a child has been witness to or involved in any reported domestic abuse incident. We are then able to use this information to provide the right support to any child and their family as and when it is needed.

ANTI BULLYING

Understanding Different Forms of Bullying. During November we took part in Anti-Bullying Week, Defining bullying is the first step in identifying it, and it's important to note that it's unwanted, intentional, and persistent behaviour

is it **BULLYING?**

When someone says or does something *unintentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's **RUDE.**

When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's **MEAN.**

When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they *keep doing it* even when you tell them to stop or show them that you're upset—that's **BULLYING.**

Useful Safeguarding Acronyms and Vocabulary

- DSL:** Designated Safeguarding Lead
- MASH:** Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
- CP:** Child Protection
- CiN:** Child in Need
- CEOP:** Child Exploitation and On-Line Protection Centre
- KCSIE:** Keeping Children Safe in Education
- PREVENT:** Part of the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn in to extremism
- CAMHS:** Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- SEND:** Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Knowsley Council Early Help Hub

We know that some families may be finding it stressful and harder to cope during these difficult times. We don't want people to struggle and we have a team of staff who can talk you through any issues and offer you some advice and guidance.

Contact the Freephone helpline on **0800 073 0043**

and ask for your information to be passed on to the Early Help Hub and one of our staff will call you back.

Or you could complete the online form by clicking the ask for help and support on the Knowsley News link.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

How do children become involved in CCE?

Organised crime gangs groom children as they are less suspicious than adults. Gang members may:

If you suspect your child is involved in CCE let them know that you are worried about them and that you are there to listen to them.

Speak to a member of the Safe guarding team at your child's school-they are there to help and support. The Police will also support you and will never blame you or your child.

Child Criminal Exploitation: What is it?

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is a form of child abuse. Children are coerced and forced into committing crimes.

Examples of the crimes might be:

- working in cannabis factories
- moving drugs (county lines)
- moving or holding money (sometimes through their bank account)
- moving or holding weapons
- carrying out of acts of violence

See the graphic on the right for signs that a young person may be involved in CCE.

Any child could be exploited by criminals



Signs to be aware of ...



BEHAVIOUR?

Disrespectful, secretive, change in attitude.



LOTS OF MONEY?

Unexplained money, different phone, expensive clothes.



POPULAR?

Frequent texts and calls at all hours. New friends, might be older.



DISTANT?

Signs of harm or depression. Missing school.



UNUSUAL ITEMS?

Balaclava, debit cards, drugs, knives.



JOURNEYS?

Frequent and repeat trips. Leaving without explanation.

Online Safety

App focus...
TikTok



What is TikTok?

TikTok is a social media platform used to create, share and discover short videos.

Users should be age 13 and above. 30 million videos are posted on TikTok each day.

Some of the risks with TikTok are that it is very easy for children to access adult content, in fact, it can be recommended to them through the 'For You' feed.

TikTok can be a creative outlet for young people but this can leave them vulnerable to negative comments and reactions.

Safety features on TikTok

- Family pairing allows parents to control their child's account from their own
- Privacy settings in the account will restrict who can watch the user's videos and can filter out videos that contain inappropriate adult content

Online safety: What are group chat apps?

Group chat apps are social media apps which allow users to create large groups to exchange messages.

Some well-known apps are WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger and SnapChat.

These apps allow users to send photos, text, videos and links to others in the group. Used responsibly they can be a great way to stay connected.

The dangers of group chat apps for young people

- Some apps allow users to message people they don't know. This allows strangers to connect and can make young people vulnerable to online grooming
- Group chats are not regulated or monitored in any way. This means users can share upsetting or inappropriate material which can be viewed by children
- Apps which have a disappearing message function can give young people the opportunity to share more risky/inappropriate content. This content is difficult to report if has been deleted or has disappeared

Advice for parents:

- Research any apps you or your child download to make sure you know how to use the safety and privacy functions
- Make it normal for your child to show you the groups they are in so you can identify the other users and make sure there are aren't any strangers in the group
- Show your child how to block and report people they don't know and talk through situations where they might need to use these functions
- Teach your child digital etiquette so they know how to behave in the online world (see above)