

Girnhill Infant School

Safeguarding News Letter - Autumn 2021

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 any of the Designated Safeguarding Team straight away.

The following members of staff are

Designated Safeguarding Officers for Girnhill Infant School:

Mrs Littlewood

Miss Robinson

Mrs Hughes

Miss Crawshaw

They can be contacted via the school office, or by telephone on 01977 702261.

For a copy of our school's Child Protection Policy, please visit the documents and policies page on our school website.

Pants - The Underwear Rule

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/pants>



We all want to keep our children safe
You've probably already talked to them about things like crossing the road safely. But have you spoken to them about how to stay safe from sexual abuse? We know it's a conversation no parent wants to have, but we believe it can feel just as natural, and be just as easy, as the road safety chat.

We call it talking PANTS. From P through to S, each letter gives an important message for children as young as four to help them stay safe.

That's why we want all parents to **talk PANTS** – because we know that talking regularly with children about these important messages really can help them stay safe.

Child Protection Policy for kids

What will happen if I tell a grown up at school that someone has hurt me, frightened me or been bad to me?

If you need help, tell a friend and ask them to go with you to tell an adult.

You can talk to any adult in school

It is Mrs Littlewood's special job to keep you safe. Talk to her if you are worried. If she is not around Mrs Hughes will listen.

Mrs Littlewood will decide what needs to be done to help you. She may ask another grown up to help you too.

If you need to talk - we will listen!

Online Safety

Using online facilities to help with learning, keep in contact with others and to give some 'down time' is part of all of our lives, but it is important that we all know how to keep children safe when doing so. Many of you will have seen our reference to the Net Aware website on the schools web page under 'Curriculum-Online safety': www.net-aware.org.uk. There are superb guides to the most popular apps, games and social media sites, along with strategies for how to keep your child safe when online.

Current concerns raised at school: A number of children are talking about using TikTok (**age 13 and above**) and watching Squid Game (**unsuitable for children under 15**). These are inappropriate for the age of the children in school and have been age rated. Please ensure what your child sees or has access to is at a level for their age range. Please also always be vigilant to what your child watched as latest crazes unfortunately have a way of popping up on your screens. **Do you have parental locks on your devices?**

Did you know?

All social networking platforms and apps have minimum age limits. Some social networks use technologies that might not be appropriate for some ages, or engage with communities that are made up of people much older than your child.

What are the risks of an underage social networking account?

- Many sites include an instant message function which allows private conversations. Not everyone your child meets online will be who they say they are.
- Most social networking sites have an app version, meaning your child will have access to the social network from their smartphone or tablet. **Some app versions of social networks use the location of the phone.**
- Chat rooms and forums can connect people who are complete strangers and can be un-moderated.
- Information shared between friends can be easily copied and may spread.
- It isn't easy to take back information that has been posted – and can be impossible if it's already been shared.
- Chat rooms and forums are one of the places online groomers go to connect with children. They can also be places where people use inappropriate language. This is sometimes done through video chat programmes.

What can I do to keep my child safe?

1. **Think about online routines:** Have a conversation with your child about online safety and agree some rules to help keep them safe.
2. **Have a conversation about online pressures and cyberbullying:** Remember to talk to your child about what they are doing online and who they are talking to. Check in with them regularly and remind them they can talk to you, or another trusted adult like a teacher if they are worried about anything.
3. **Set up devices safely:** Make sure you set it up with your child, exploring any safety features. Remember to use parental controls!
4. **Keep children safe on conferencing apps:** Supervise your child when they use these apps; remind your child not to share chat links or passwords on social media; explore any security features like how to report and block; talk to your child about what they are sharing.

Remember! You can always speak to your child's class teacher if you have any safeguarding concerns.