

Summer 2024

LONGDON PARK SCHOOL



Welcome back!

We are looking forward to the Summer term ahead, there's lots to do and share with you this term and we can't wait!

Pastoral and Safeguarding Team Update

On returning to school for the Summer Term we have had two additions to the Pastoral and Safeguarding team. Please join us in welcoming Matt and Michelle to the Pastoral Team!

Matt and Michelle are available for staff, students and parents to talk to regarding concerns, behaviour and any general advice along side the rest of the pastoral team.

Who's who in the Pastoral Team?

In Summer terms issue:

- ♦ Welcome back!
- ♦ Pastoral and Safeguarding Team Update
- ♦ Who's who?
- ♦ Safeguarding Parent Survey
- ♦ Safeguarding Spotlight
- ♦ Online Safety
- ♦ Upcoming events
- ♦ Useful websites
- ♦ Coffee Morning Poster
- ♦ Worry check in
- ♦ National Online Safety Posters



Lotty

Favourite Film—

Cinderella Story

Favourite Food—

Pizza



Kayleigh

Favourite Film—

Encanto

Favourite Food—

Nachos



Matt

Favourite Film—

Ratatouille

Favourite Food—

Steak



Rebekah

Favourite Film—

The Holiday

Favourite Food—

Chocolate



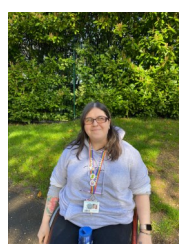
Katy

Favourite Film—

Mamma Mia 2

Favourite Food—

Chicken wings



Michelle

Favourite Film—

Toy story (all of them)

Favourite Food—

Falafels

Safeguarding Parent Survey

We would love to hear your views about safeguarding at the school. Please complete this short survey to help us understand how we can improve safeguarding at Longdon Park School.

<https://forms.office.com/e/UJhgAYKUj9>

Safeguarding at Longdon Park
School





Summer Safeguarding Spotlight— Child Sexual Exploitation



What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?

CSE is when children and young people are sexually exploited by someone who engages with them through the internet, social media or in person with the aim of forming trusting friendships/relationships with the intention of exploiting them for sex or sexual contact.

Perpetrators play on young people's naivety and vulnerabilities.

What is the law?

Taking, possessing, sharing, showing and distributing indecent images of a child under 18 is an offence. If a child under 18 also takes, possesses, shares, shows and distributes indecent images of someone under 18 this is also an offence.

In cases where there are "aggravating" factors, it may be necessary for the police to take formal action with the young people involved, meaning they could be charged with an offence. Aggravating factors include wide age gaps, blackmail and threats.

It is important that young people know this is a criminal record and can impact their future.

How do we protect young people?

Talking—it isn't always easy to have discussions of a sexual nature with young people however it is important that young people understand the risks of "sexting" and that they receive advice around staying safe and that they feel comfortable to talk to adults if something is worrying them.

Learning—There is a lot of advice available online for young people and parents ranging from speaking to strangers and sending nude images.

Take control—Set up parental controls and safety apps on devices.

CEOP—Child Exploitation and Online Protection website—Are you worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with you online? You can report this on CEOP and a Child Protection Advisor will support and advise you with any worries and concerns you have about events. [CEOP Safety Centre](https://www.ceop.gov.uk)

Online Safety

WhatsApp is a social messaging app used by 2.7 billion people every month.

Users can send text, voice and video messages, make voice and video calls and share information and documents.

As of April 2024 to use the service in the UK, users must be 13 years old and older.

Depending on the privacy settings anyone can contact people through WhatsApp and add them to group chats. WhatsApp automatically sets privacy settings to public.

Other customisable features include; location-sharing, managing disappearing messages, customising groups, two-step verification and fingerprint lock.

Please see WhatsApp Safety Guide on following pages.



WhatsApp

Useful Links:

[Home \(lgfl.net\)](https://www.lgfl.net)

[Build and talk - Sustainability - LEGO.com](https://www.lego.com)

[Place2Be: Parenting Smart: Articles](#)

[Parents' resources | Parentkind](#)

[Resources for Parents | SWGfL](#)

[Twinkl Parents - Twinkl](#)

[Parents' leaflets | NSPCC Learning](#)

[The Key Safeguarding | Parent online safety zone](#)

What is happening this term?

Parent Coffee Morning—26th June

Transition Information to parents—W/C 17th June

Inset Day—28th June

Class Transition Day—1st July

End of Term—23rd July

End of year reports

**Are you worried about something
but aren't sure who to talk to or
how to talk about it?**

**Let us know using the below QR
Code or link to let us know what
you are worried about.**



<https://forms.office.com/e/9WKDq9ArE6>



Longdon Park School Coffee Morning

Focus—

- Safeguarding over the Summer Holidays (including online safety)
- Therapeutic strategies for coping over the Summer Holidays.



Who will be there?

- Lotty Storer—Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Amanda Greene—Wellbeing Coordinator
 - Members of the pastoral team
 - Members of the clinical team

June 26th 2024

9:30-10:30

In person at Longdon Park
School and on Teams.





WhatsApp

safety guide for parents

internet
matters.org

13+

WhatsApp's
minimum age
in the UK

58%

Kids aged 3-17
who use
WhatsApp

37%

Kids under 13
who use
WhatsApp



5 tips to keep kids safe on WhatsApp



1 [Review privacy settings](#) WhatsApp has a range of privacy and security settings to keep users safe. Customise groups, app access, live location and more.



2 [Customise contacts](#) Show your child how to report and block unwanted contacts. Then, work with them to add their friends and family. Review and talk about their contacts regularly.



3 [Talk about personal information](#) Make sure your child understands what personal information is. Talk about the importance of keeping that information private on WhatsApp.



4 [Show them where to get support](#) If something goes wrong or they see something worrying on WhatsApp, make sure they know to come to you, and talk about other sources of support.



5 [Check in regularly](#) Once you've done all of the above, check in with them regularly to review settings and how they use WhatsApp.

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing Internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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