



Safeguarding Newsletter

Spring term

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and is of the utmost importance at Loughton School. Every single person who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

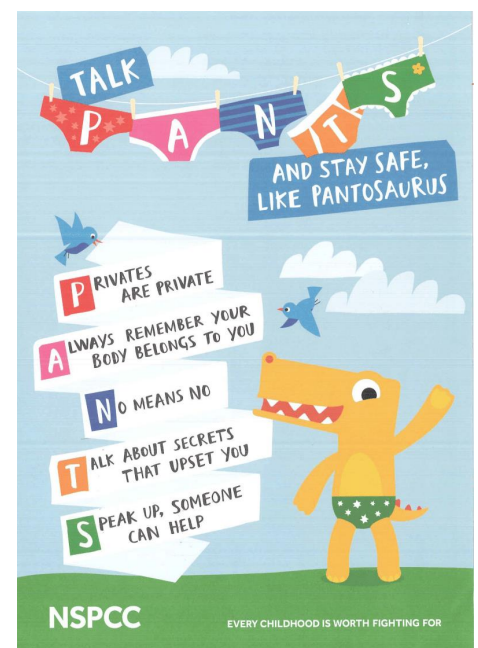
The Spring term was launched with a safeguarding assembly delivered by the senior leadership team. As part of this assembly, children were reminded that our aim is for all children to come to school feeling safe and happy and to ensure that they know they can talk to someone who will help them if or when they do not feel happy. In addition, there were lots of reminders about how we keep them safe from the physical security of the school, our first aid offer, our fire and lockdown drill practices through to our PSHE lessons. We reminded children that they can speak to ANYONE if they have a worry as "*safeguarding is everyone's responsibility*" but we also shared once again the staff members in our [safeguarding team](#). The children know that all of our senior leaders are designated safeguarding leads along with a wider team of staff and posters sharing these people are displayed in each classroom.

Safeguarding parent survey

We would love to hear your views about safeguarding at Loughton School. Please complete this [short survey](#) by Monday 31st March to help us understand how we can improve our safeguarding practice.

PANTS

Talk PANTS is a programme that helps children understand that their body belongs to them, and they should tell someone they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried. We teach the children about PANTS and consent in school but we encourage all parents to continue these conversations at home. The NSPCC website is full of useful information to support parents in having these conversations. Please follow the link below: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>





Spotlight on: discriminatory language

This terms 'spotlight on' feature is on discriminatory language.



We want all children at Loughton School to feel a true sense of belonging and we have a zero-tolerance approach on any discriminatory language. Discrimination is “treating someone unfairly because of who they are.” (Citizens Advice, 2022). This means that a person is being treated differently or is put at a disadvantage because of someone else’s opinions or judgements of them. By law, there are 9 characteristics that are protected from discrimination under the Equality Act 2010 and these include areas

such as disability, religion/belief, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation.

If someone is targeted or treated unfairly because of one or more of these characteristics, then they are being unlawfully discriminated against. At Loughton School we celebrate diversity and teach the importance of this to our children. We do not tolerate discrimination in any form and it will always be challenged. When children use discriminatory language, we always follow this up with the child and the parent/carer and educate the pupil on why this language is not acceptable.

Social media and online behaviour

This term, we have been made aware that a very small minority of our children in years 5 and 6 have/are accessing inappropriate TV series such as Squid Games or have been unkind to others online (notably on the platform WhatsApp). We urge parents and carers to ensure they consider what restrictions and monitoring is in place for their child.

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

(Ages specified in terms as of 2014)



Twitter
Facebook
Instagram
Pinterest
Google+
Tumblr
Reddit
Snapchat
Secret



LinkedIn



WhatsApp



Vine
Tinder



Path



YouTube
Keek
Foursquare
WeChat
Kik
Flickr





Following 'National Offer Day' for secondary school places, we know that those children in year 6 who haven't yet been given access to social media, may begin to use these platforms in order to keep in touch with their friends over the summer holidays and for those attending a different secondary school. If your child is in year 6, or has recently been given access to a social media platform, please consider the following:



- 1) Talking regularly with your child is the greatest tool to help keep them safe online. Talking regularly and making it part of daily conversation, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed. It also means when they do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you.
- 2) Manage the amount of time your child is online. Balance it with other activities that are away from a screen.
- 3) Set up parental controls to block any upsetting or inappropriate content. Information about setting up parental controls can be found here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>
- 4) Give your child the strategies they need in case something concerning happens whilst they are using their device. This could be to lock the screen and tell an adult, to make a report to the platform they are using, or to block the user.
- 5) Talk to your child about how they communicate online and remind them that anything they put online, whether it's via What's App, Instagram, TikTok or YouTube, can be shared widely. Is what they are sharing kind? True? Helpful? Safe?

Finally, please bear in mind, if you allow your child to sign up for these sites, knowing that they have to give a false age, that information may follow you on social media. For example, your child signs up for Facebook in year 3, confirming they are 13, by the time they are actually 13, both Facebook and the outside world will believe they are 18. Consider if you would you be happy with your year 6 child receiving content and messages aimed at 18 year olds.



As a reminder, if you are allowing your child to access social media services online, we advise that you continue to talk about the apps, games and sites they like to use, and what they like and don't like and any concerns about being online. Discuss with them when to unfollow, block or report.

As always, if you want to discuss anything further, please get in touch:

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