

# SAFEGUARDING is everyone's responsibility

## Newsletter Spring 2022

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's health and development.
- Ensuring children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

There are many documents that we have to write and adhere to around safeguarding.

Some of the documents of paramount importance to us as a school are:

1. Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021
2. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
3. Pinewood Child Protection Policy

All of these can be found on the school website.

At Pinewood, we have external safeguarding training every 3 years where all staff attend. We have staff refresher training every year and safeguarding updates during staff meetings frequently. We write a safeguarding action plan, I have termly visits with Rachel Makey our safeguarding governor who is also the safeguarding governor at Killisick Junior School. We now operate CPOMs, an electronic system for recording safeguarding concerns, and we have a safeguarding folder on teams for staff with helpful documentation.

Keeping children safe in school is a huge part of our work every second of every day but so is educating the children into how to keep themselves safe. We undertake assemblies both in house and through the NSPCC covering areas of safeguarding such as online safety, keeping happy and safe, educating them in an age appropriate way about stranger danger.

Rachel Otter

Senior designated safeguarding lead

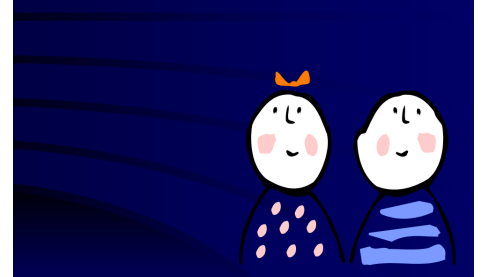
Claire Reville

Designated safeguarding lead

Rachel Makey

Safeguarding governor

## STRANGER DANGER



Keeping Happy & Safe





We do a lot of work with our children at school regarding staying safe on line and they should be able to tell you about our school SMART rules.

**Gaming:** Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or even sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks 'normalising' to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat. It is worth thinking about.

**Age-inappropriate Content:** "Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways — from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

### How can parents/carers support?

**Connect, don't correct**—If your child has been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake- but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised.

**Talk it through**—Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched or played. Remind your children they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Talk to your child about the games that are age-appropriate for them, explaining why.

**Contextual Safeguarding** is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm **beyond their families**. The relationships young people form outside of their families (whether online or community) can sometimes expose them to violence and/or abuse. These threats can take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple threats, including exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as county lines, trafficking, online abuse, sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation. **As our children grow through primary school and continue to secondary, it is helpful for parents to be aware of contextual safeguarding. For further information please see our school website or contact me as the senior designated safeguarding lead.**

Please contact me if you would like any more information around safeguarding . Ms Otter



**Every Day Counts**

**Coming to school is really cool!**

**A FINALNOTE** — Our school attendance data is at an all time low and this is without Covid related absences being counted. Chicken pox hit school hard we know. Please help your child meet their full potential by ensuring, as much as possible, that their attendance is as high as it possibly can be. There is a huge link between low attendance rates and low academic performance with lots of statistics available. We know it is harder for young children who are prone to illness as they start full time school, but please do all you can to ensure appointments are outside of school time. Please support us as much as possible with good attendance and time keeping. We only ever have your child's interest at heart when we discuss attendance issues with you – but it is just so important. Thank you.