

December 2023

# WPS Parents' Safeguarding Newsletter

The Christmas break is almost upon us, which can mean some learners are likely to be spending more time online over the holidays. We have put together a range of support resources that may be of help over the Christmas break.

## Christmas Devices



As Christmas is approaching many children and young people will be asking for new devices. It's important that parents think carefully about these devices and the parental features that are available. It's equally important parents think about what the device will be used for, e.g. an all-singing-all-dancing smartphone when it will only be used for messaging and the odd phone call, would a more simple phone be better?

Internet Matters has put together a couple of really good guides for parents:

How to choose the right phone for your child - [HERE](#) and Children's tech guide 2023 - which has guides on a huge range of tech from laptops to gaming consoles, smart TV's and much more. The guides can be found [HERE](#).

## Google Family Link App

The Google Family Link has come on in leaps and bounds over the years, allowing parents greater management of their child's Google accounts (e.g Youtube) and Android devices. This includes children under the age of 13.

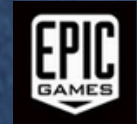
Internet Matters have put together a great article explaining exactly what Google Family Link is plus detailed instructions on how to set it up and use it.

You can find the article [HERE](#).





## Epic Games Guidance



Epic Games (which includes Fortnite, Fall Guys and Rocket League) provide some really useful features for parents to manage their child's gaming experience. This includes 'cabin accounts' which are accounts where the child is under 13 and certain restrictions are applied by default, e.g. talking to other players.

Given the popularity of these games it's possible some parents aren't aware of this feature. You can find further details and instructions from Internet Matters [HERE](#).

## WhatsApp Guide

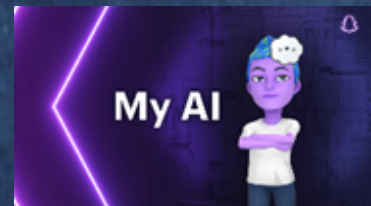
Even though WhatsApp has an age restriction of 16+, it is the most popular messaging app from Y4/5 upwards. Over the last year or so WhatsApp have introduced new features. Here is an updated guide so you can ensure the most appropriate settings are applied for your child.



You can find the article/guide [HERE](#).

## Snapchat AI

In a bid to keep up with everyone else, Snapchat introduced their AI chatbot a few months ago by default into users' accounts. You don't get a choice, it can't be turned off unless you pay.



Children are using Snap MyAI for a variety of reasons such as boredom and loneliness. There can be positives, but on the flip side there are always negatives, such as inappropriate content, misinformation (AI is only as good as the data it's trained on), privacy and much more. Even Snapchat admits that the AI can be tricked into saying pretty much anything.

An article has been written explaining Snap MyAI. You can see the article [HERE](#).

## YouTube Supervised Accounts

YouTube Supervised Experience is really easy to set up and gives parents much greater flexibility in managing the content their children are watching on YouTube.

Here is a link to a page which has 5 very simple videos showing parents how to set up and use Supervised Experience, YouTube Kids (which also has new settings).

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the webpage.





## Protecting Children from Explicit Content

internet  
matters.org

It is easy for any person, any age, to stumble across inappropriate and explicit content online and for parents this can be challenging.

Internet Matters have a range of resources available to help parents including:

- Tips and tools for website/content filtering.
- What to do if your child sees explicit content.
- Resources for further help and support.

You can see all the sections [HERE](#).

## Supporting Girls Impacted by Misogyny Online

Internet Matters have put together a great article to help parents support anyone who has been impacted by online misogyny including a Dad's experience of supporting his daughter, the experiences of one 15 year old girl and some simple tips for parents.

You can find the article [HERE](#).

Additionally, with everything that is going on around the world at the moment it's important that parents know how to minimise the negative impact of what their children may be seeing. The Mental Health Foundation have put some advice together which is very useful. You can find this [HERE](#).



## Sextortion on the Rise

The Internet Watch Foundation has released concerning new stats in relation to young people who are increasingly being extorted online. Predominantly this appears to be older boys (14-17) with the IWF reporting that sextortion has increased by 257% in the first six months of 2023 compared to the whole of 2022. Often, offenders appear as younger females with fake profiles in order to lure, trick and coerce victims which can then have a devastating impact on the young person.

You can see the IWF announcement [HERE](#) and there is some useful information for young people and parents [HERE](#).





## Chroming

The term "chroming" refers to a recent drug trend in which individuals inhale the fumes of intoxicants such as aerosols, paint, or solvents to experience a high. The name came from the original act of sniffing chrome-based paint. Although using inhalants isn't new, recent social media trends are adding a new dimension of peer pressure through the 'TikTok Challenge'. The challenge, also known as 'WhipTok' has sparked renewed interest, especially among teenagers, who are being encouraged to try this dangerous practice.

As well as the short-term effects typical of substance abuse, experts have warned that 'chroming' can lead to long term brain damage and damage to internal organs. There have already been stories of teenage deaths in Australia and Ireland resulting from chroming.

### **Smoothwall Monitor**

Smoothwall Monitor is regularly updated with trending terminology where there is a safeguarding concern. As a school we already use Smoothwall Monitor, therefore related terms such as 'chroming' and 'WhipTok' already feature in our keyword list and any searches containing these words will be flagged under the Vulnerable Person category and reported. Below are a number of media articles discussing the subject of chroming:

[Teen dies after attempting dangerous social media trend called 'chroming'](#)

[Tributes paid to girl who died after TikTok challenge.](#)

[Experts warning amid chroming resurgence - ABC News](#)

## Taking a Stand

London Grid for Learning have put together a great, free resource for learners called Taking a Stand. There is a short, 3 minute video and a scenario based quiz all about what you can do if you come across something scary online, if you're worried about a friend, or if someone has made a threat or shared something dangerous, all related around extremist behaviour.

You can find the resource [HERE](#).

## Report Harmful Content

The Report Harmful Content service is an easy way for learners over the age of 13 in the UK to report harm where a report has been made to industry (e.g. social media, gaming platforms) and no action has been taken. This is really frustrating for a young person who is being targeted. For further information on how to report harmful content [CLICK HERE](#)

We have now added a [Report Harmful Content](#) button to our website, in order to make it very easy for learners (over the age of 13) and parents/carers to report any harmful content.

### **Report Harmful Content (RHC)**

The Report Harmful Content service is an easy way for learners over the age of 13, and parents/carers in the UK to report harm where a report has been made to industry (e.g. social media, gaming platforms) and no action has been taken. To report any harmful content, click on the button below:





It's Christmas Time – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

# It's Christmas Time!



**A Parent's Guide to Social Media**



**A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures**



**A Parent's Guide to Gaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming**



scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website



**A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers**



**A Parent's Guide to Fake News**



**A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings**

## It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period.

Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

**Scan the QR code to find out more.**

**Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.**

**Parents** please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

**Skips Educational** Email: [info@skipsed.com](mailto:info@skipsed.com) Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



**Skips**

[www.skipssafetynet.org](http://www.skipssafetynet.org)



# VAPING AND E-CIGARETTES THE FACTS



## MOST CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE DON'T VAPE OR SMOKE.

Vapes containing nicotine are age-restricted products: it is illegal to sell them to under 18s and for adults to buy them on their behalf.

### VAPES ARE NOT HARMLESS.

Short-term effects can include coughing, headaches, dizziness, and sore throats. Long-term effects are as yet unknown.

### HARMFUL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

Disposable vapes and the batteries inside them are bad for the environment, with many ending up in landfills.



Those who knowingly sell to under 18s are driven by profit and don't care who they sell to.

## DON'T BE DUPED!

# DON'T SMOKE? DON'T START TO VAPE.



West  
Northamptonshire  
Council



## Vaping and E-Cigarettes



Over the last few years, there has been an increase in the number of young people experimenting with e-cigarettes.

Vaping is covered throughout our curriculum but here is some more information about the facts regarding Vaping and E-Cigarettes.

## Recent NSPCC visit

# NSPCC

We recently welcomed the NSPCC to deliver assemblies and workshops to a selection of our Primary Learners. They delivered the Speak Out Stay Safe Programme, which is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children were taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

## NGAGE

with aquarius

## Re-Solv

Wootton Park School learners in Years 9, 10 & 11 have recently been involved in a workshop with NGage and Re-Solv to find out more about **nitrous oxide [nos] which was an illegal drug from 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023**. During this workshop learners found out what nos is, nos's effects on the body, we looked at nos news articles and thought and discussed the consequences to the person and the family [including death]. We looked at other risky behaviours, provided some harm reduction information and a leaflet. We also thought about decision making, how we might feel if we were in a risky situation and how to manage those situations confidently. We identified support networks so we know who we can turn to, to get advice and support.

If you would like more information, please visit our website

[www.re-solv.org](http://www.re-solv.org) or [www.aquarius.org.uk](http://www.aquarius.org.uk)

Or call Re-Solv 01785 817885 or NGage 01604 633848



## West Northants NCT Newsletter

Please click on the link below to access the West Northants Children's Trust newsletter, which includes information on amazing events, clubs and groups that families, children and young people can access across the county that are free or affordable to attend:

[West Northants Newsletter](#)



## Safeguarding during the holidays

We hope you have a lovely Christmas break, if you have any safeguarding concerns over the holiday please contact a member of our safeguarding team. We do have some drop-in sessions available throughout the Christmas holidays so please contact either Jane Page or Sam MacDonnell using the email addresses below.

DSL - [j.page@woottonparkschool.org.uk](mailto:j.page@woottonparkschool.org.uk)

Deputy DSL - [s.macdonnell@woottonparkschool.org.uk](mailto:s.macdonnell@woottonparkschool.org.uk)

07857 801573

07857 801568



WOOTTON PARK

## Reporting a Safeguarding Concern

If you are concerned about the welfare or safety of a learner please speak to a member of the safeguarding team.



Jane Page

Designated Safeguarding Lead



Sam MacDonnell

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Claire  
Woodbridge



Corinna  
Kerrou



Dan  
Rosser



Gemma  
Kingston-Wade



Carla  
Grady



Adam  
Cowdell



James  
Coe



WOOTTON PARK

*'Ipsam quod faciendum est diutius'*



Phone call  
01604 931139



Website  
[www.woottonparkschool.org.uk](http://www.woottonparkschool.org.uk)



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