

December 2022

# WPS Parents' Safeguarding Newsletter

## Online gaming and games your child may be playing

We have recently spoken to our learners in assembly about gaming online. It has been brought to our attention that some learners are using inappropriate language whilst playing online with each other. We have reiterated the online safety rules with all our learners but also the importance of treating everyone with respect.

Internet Matters have put a lovely guide together which will help parents make decisions, including age-specific games in which families can play together. You can find the guide [HERE](#).

## Christmas Toy Safety

Many parents and carers assume that if they can buy a toy for their child then it must be safe. But sadly, there is an increasing number of unsafe toys being sold online which can be deadly. And, with many families feeling the pinch this Christmas, the appeal of cheap toys could have fatal consequences. The Child Accident Prevention Trust has launched a campaign to raise awareness of the high-risk toys to avoid on online marketplaces.

You can read more about this campaign including what parents should be looking out for [here](#). In the run up to Christmas the Child Accident Prevention Trust also has a number of other guides for parents / families to be aware of during the Christmas period when buying presents for Children.

You can find these below:

[Buy Safe Toys](#), [Button Batteries](#), [Magnets](#).

## Digital Parenting

For many parents the online world can sometimes feel like a minefield, where children are way ahead in terms of their knowledge, that they can circumvent every parental protection and have little control over behaviour and consequences.

In many respects technology is a smokescreen which becomes a barrier. But how we help and protect our children, how we set rules and consequences should not be any different from the real world to the online world.

Leonie Smith has written a useful, down to earth article which explains this really well, explaining that this needs to start early in the child's life and it isn't about trying to stay one step ahead or trying to outsmart children. Take a look for yourself [HERE](#)



## Safeguarding Awareness for Parents & Carers (Football Association)

Every week millions of children play football, many of them in organised clubs and organisations. As part of its safeguarding response, the Football Association has created a safeguarding course for parents.

The course is designed to help parents make informed choices about the football settings where they enrol their children. The course helps parents recognise best practice and see where there may be concerns, so that they can report them quickly and effectively.



This free course can be found here: <https://learn.Englandfootball.com/courses/safeguarding/safeguarding-awareness-for-parents-and-carers>

## Child to Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA) Resources

Although there is no 'official' definition, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales, Nicole Jacobs, says that CPVA is 'CAPVA is a form of family abuse where children/adolescents use a range of harmful behaviours towards parents/caregivers in an attempt to get their own way, hurt or punish, communicate distress and/or control their environment.'

Here are some resources you might find useful:

Website: [PAC-UK | Child to Parent Violence Services](#)



**PAC-UK**  
Adoption and Permanency Support

Website: [Child on parent violence | Reducing the Risk](#)

Booklet: Child to Parent Violence - a practical guide (Many versions of this with different organisation logos)  
[https://www.proceduresonline.com/nesubregion/files/southtyne\\_cpv.pdf](https://www.proceduresonline.com/nesubregion/files/southtyne_cpv.pdf)

Report: Understanding Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (Domestic Abuse Commissioner)  
<https://domesticabusecommissioner.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/CAPVA-Rapid-Literature-Review-Full-November-2021-Baker-and-Bonnick.pdf>

## Defining County Lines

County Lines and the gangs that operate them are a key threat to vulnerable children. But in order to combat it effectively, and to protect the children that they threaten an understanding of the definition is required. To help in this effort to safeguard children from the practice's influence the National Crime Agency has published the document linked below:

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines>

## Setting Up Devices

With Xmas fast approaching some children will be getting new or upgraded devices, older devices may be handed to younger children. This is an ideal time to get information out to parents about the importance of setting up devices with parental controls in relation to the age of the child.

Internet Matters covers all devices with very simple, easy-to-understand parental guides which you can find [HERE](#).

There are also some good console buying advice and tips [HERE](#).



## Playstation Safety.

Sony Playstation and Internet Matters have got together and created a wonderful interactive quiz for children and parents to learn together how to make the most of Playstation settings for safer gaming. This is a great idea to get conversations going and for parents to learn more about the games which their children play.

You can access the interactive quiz [HERE](#).



## What is Discord?

Over the last year we have had a number of online safety concerns around learners using Discord. Discord has been around since 2015 and whilst it has normally been seen as the social media app for gamers, this has changed. Discord has become very popular in KS2 and KS3 not just for gaming, but used by many learners simply as a means to keep in touch with friends and family (as per WhatsApp) or joining others in conversations on servers.

If you have not heard of Discord before it is worth accessing the article below to bring you up to speed.

[Discord](#)



## Safeguarding Contacts

Please contact on the below methods if you have any safeguarding concerns.

Jane Page - [j.page@woottonparkschool.org.uk](mailto:j.page@woottonparkschool.org.uk) - 07857 801573

Sam MacDonnell - [s.macdonnell@woottonparkschool.org.uk](mailto:s.macdonnell@woottonparkschool.org.uk) - 07857801568

  
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

## Holiday Activities and Food' funded school holiday clubs return to Northamptonshire this winter

Since the Summer of 2021, both North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire Council have been funded by Central Government to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) in the main school holidays – Easter, Summer and Christmas.

Known locally as HAF Northants, the programme works with local groups and organisations to provide funded places for eligible children. Local charity, Northamptonshire Sport, has been commissioned by both North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire Council to deliver the programme and Summer 2022 saw over 37,000 places made available across the county.

This winter holiday, starting on Monday 19th December 2022 to Friday 30th December 2022, over 14,500 funded places are available, with over 100 activity clubs and days. Activities include go karting, climbing, outdoor adventure, game coding, arts and crafts, dance to name just some of the great activities that are available.

The HAF programme is available to eligible children across every local authority in England and aims to relieve the pressure some families experience during school holidays. In particular, increased costs to cover childcare and food during holidays can cause stress. Research also shows at holiday times, children from disadvantaged families are more likely to experience social isolation and 'unhealthy holidays' in relation to nutrition and exercise.

HAF Northants responds to the issues faced by some families by providing a programme of consistent and easily accessible enriching activities, providing nourishing food and involving children and parents in food preparation. The holiday clubs are free of charge for young people who qualify for free school meals and those considered to be vulnerable.

For more information on the HAF scheme in Northamptonshire please email:

[haf@northamptonshiresport.org](mailto:haf@northamptonshiresport.org) or visit [www.holidayactivities.org](http://www.holidayactivities.org).



## Operation Makesafe

Police commend hotel for highlighting potential child abuse Northamptonshire Police have commended the actions of hotel staff in Corby for alerting them to a potential case of child exploitation.

Staff at the Holiday Inn had previously undergone police training to help them spot the warning signs of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and child criminal exploitation (CCE), and to feel confident to report concerns.

In early November, staff were concerned about young two children who had been checked in to the hotel by a man who had checked in separately a few days earlier. They called the police to highlight their fears and to ensure the children's safety.

You can read more details on the case and Operation Makesafe [here](#).



## Cost of Living Support for Families

The West Northamptonshire Council have a range of support on offer for families to help with the cost of living crisis. Details on the support available can be found on links below which professionals are encouraged to read and make families they are working with aware of any help and support available to them. [West Northamptonshire Financial and Practical Cost of Living Support](#)



Find out how we can support you with cost of living by visiting [www.northnorthants.gov.uk/cost-living](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/cost-living)



North  
Northamptonshire  
Council



## [Flare Reporting App](#)



The Partnership are delighted to be supporting the OPFCC in launching the Flare Report App that allows women to report, anonymously and quickly, any incidents or behaviour that make them feel unsafe when they are out and about in Northamptonshire. Police will collate and analyse the reports made, so that problem areas can be identified and action taken to improve those areas where people feel unsafe.

This is a great service that we hope will reach as many people in the county as possible. We want to encourage as many people as possible to download the app and to cascade through their own contacts and networks. Flare Report can be downloaded to Apple or Android devices.

Women and girls can use the app to report incidents and behaviour that are inappropriate and make them feel unsafe, such as cat calling, comments or touching, street harassment or other threatening behaviour. Crimes can be reported on Flare Report but not if they need an immediate police response.

Click [here](#) to find out more about the app and utilise the partner resources for promotion.