

Nelson's Safeguarding Newsletter

Summer Term

WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

The following members of staff are Designated Safeguarding Leads for Nelson Primary School:

- Miss Barnes (DSL)
- Miss Forrest
- Mr Hargreaves
- Miss Hickman
- Miss Bi

They can be contacted via the school office, or by telephone on 0121 464 2201.

You can also contact CASS (Children's Advice and Support Services):

0121 303 1888

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999.



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our summer term safeguarding newsletter, with summer holiday's just around the corner it is important to consider how to keep ourselves and our children safe.

If you come across any useful safeguarding resources or information that you think the school community would benefit from seeing, please let us know via the school office.

The Community Shop

Gas Street St Luke's
Great Colmore Street
Birmingham
B15 2AT

The community shop costs £3.00 included in this ticket is a free tea or coffee. You are then able to receive 10 items from the shop including meat, dairy, fruit and vegetables.

Thursday's 9.45am until 12pm

To access the community shop you need to be claiming some kind of means-tested state benefit.

Staying active in the holiday

Physical activity is key to both mental and physical wellbeing. Try to keep your family active over the holidays. Visit the park, go for a walk try to make it a part of your daily routine.

This link has information about how you may be able to get free or discounted access to leisure centers in Birmingham.

<https://www.birminghamleisure.com/be-active-passport-to-leisure/>

Attendance

It is vital that your child attends school every day to get the very best from their education.

Children with good attendance do better in the future.

When your child arrives late at school, they miss the teacher's instructions and the introduction to the lesson. Your child may feel embarrassed entering the classroom late.

- 5 minutes late per day = 3.7 days a year.
- 80% attendance = 38 days missed or 200 lessons.

LITT (Leave In Term Time) fines = £60 per parent, per child.

Unpaid fines will result in court costs.

Pupils return to school on **Wednesday 4th September**. The first few days of school are vital to pupils making a good start to their new year groups. It is a time when routines and expectations are established, key to helping pupils feel safe and secure in school. Please ensure your child is in school on the first day back.

Domestic abuse

Our school is an operation encompass school which means if there is a police call out for a domestic abuse incident we will be notified. This is because children are also seen as victims of domestic abuse and can suffer negative effects of witnessing it.

What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse is defined as domestic abuse as an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also by a family member or carer.

Getting help and support

If it is an emergency you must call 999

You can speak to any member of staff if you are experiencing domestic abuse and need help.

Alternatively, you can access any of these external support agencies

Women's aid: <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/>

National domestic abuse helpline: <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/> tel: 0800 200 247

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help> - details more ways to get hel

Safeguarding is everyone's business. No child or adult should be made to feel unsafe. Everyone has the right to be safe from harm and abuse. All of us have a role to play in safeguarding.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

TikTok is a free-to-use social media platform that lets people watch and share short videos of up to ten minutes in length. Its memes, trends, and celebrity cameos have made it enormously popular with an estimated 1 billion users worldwide – but its algorithm that surfaces videos based on users' activity can make the app seriously addictive.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users that someone follows, "For You" is a collection based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will probably be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially show something unsuitable. What's worse, if they engage with this content, more will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the volume of uploads means that they aren't manually monitored.

18

CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal, or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With over 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact with strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over 16s (or young people using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards to other users for videos they've created, retaining their monetary value. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99. TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive. Recent figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time on it. In 2024, UK children have spent an average of 127 minutes per day on TikTok – twice as much as in 2020 – according to parental controls company Qustodio. This compulsive usage can interfere with children's sleep patterns – leading to irritability –

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short-form videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but with Ofcom reporting that nearly a third of children aged 12-15 use TikTok as a news source, you should be wary of extremist material.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers, and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure that they understand not to share any identifying personal information, and to talk to a trusted adult if they're exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework, or skipping meals.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

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