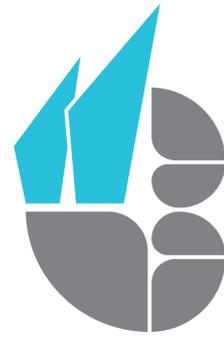


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Tuesday 12 October 2021

Dear Parent

Safeguarding Update - October

Your child's welfare and safety are at the heart of everything we do. With this in mind, please find below the first in a series of monthly letters, designed to keep you up to date with the latest news in relation to this.

Staff Training

As is normal at the start of the academic year, all staff attended enhanced safeguarding training during our staff training days in September. This training is extremely broad, but also focused in on areas flagged as both national and local priorities such as County Lines, Child Sexual Exploitation, Harmful Sexual Behaviours and Neglect. From this training, all staff are well placed to spot any early signs of concern, and then use our robust systems to support our young people.

Reporting Safeguarding Concerns

Students are encouraged to report safeguarding concerns to any adult at Caister Academy and nearly all colleagues in senior and pastoral positions receive enhanced safeguarding training. However, we also display photographs and contact details of our designated safeguarding leaders in every room and on our website. This core team is made up of the following colleagues:

- Miss Helen Seath – Vice Principal, Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs Kim Firth – Safeguarding Officer, Senior Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs Claire Neave – Attendance & Welfare Officer, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Miss Amy Vanner – Teacher of English, E-safety Designated Safeguarding Lead

In addition, any member of our community can report a concern by contacting reception and asking to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Peer-on-Peer Sexual Abuse

Following the national highlighting of this area last year, challenging Peer-on-Peer Sexual Abuse continues to be a focus for us, and all schools across the country. For us this has included specific staff training around Sexual Harassment, Harmful Sexual Behaviours and Rape Culture, alongside further educating our young people through assemblies and their Relationship and Sex Education. We are also engaging with our students around this subject through student voice and education about this will continue as the year progresses.

The NSPCC website has detailed information for parents if they are concerned that their child could be affected by Peer-on-Peer Sexual Abuse. If you would like more information to enable you to spot the signs please click on this link [Preventing Child Sexual Abuse & Keeping Children Safe | NSPCC](#).

Monthly Factsheets

To support you in keeping our children safe at home, we will be issuing monthly factsheets with different themes to help you spot signs of concern, especially around Harmful Sexual Behaviours, social media, and gaming platforms and our local safeguarding priorities which are County Lines, Neglect, and Child Sexual Exploitation.

This month we will focus on the popular online game Fortnite. While it is not automatically dangerous, the multiplayer element does carry some risks. The attached factsheet will help you to feel more informed, decide whether you are happy for your child to play the game, and show you how to set up important parental controls.

I also include a parent factsheet on County Lines which contains information on Criminal Gang Exploitation, the signs and what to do if you have concerns.

Acceptable Use Policy

As you know, digital technologies play a really significant role in the life of young people today. Information and communication technology bring huge opportunities and can enrich learning in school and at home. However, there are also risks associated with its use, and this is the reason we take e-safety education so seriously.

To ensure all our young people understand how to have safe access to the internet and other technologies, we explain to them and expect them to adhere to an Acceptable Use Policy. This acceptable use guidance is intended to ensure:

- Young people will be responsible users and stay safe while using the internet and other communications technologies for educational, personal, and recreational use.
- School IT systems and users are protected from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of the systems and users at risk.
- Parents and carers are aware of the importance of e-safety and are involved in the education and guidance of young people regarding their on-line behaviour.

To allow you to support us with this, a copy of this policy is attached and available on our website. Your child has had the policy explained to them and will sign it electronically when accessing school IT systems, however, it would be worth talking it through with them, to further support their understanding. We do monitor students' activity on computers in school and will contact you if we have any concerns about breaches of the acceptable use policy.

Please encourage your child to adopt safe use of digital technologies and the internet at home and ask us for support if you have concerns over your child's e-safety. Also attached are some further resources to help you keep your child's internet use as safe as possible.

Thank you for taking the time to carefully read the first of our monthly updates and its attachments. I am hopeful that by working together, we can continue to help protect our young people and keep them safe from harm. I look forward to writing to you again next month with our second safeguarding update.

Yours faithfully

Helen Seath
Vice Principal

Attached:

- Factsheet – Fortnite
- Factsheet – County Lines
- Factsheet – Information & online resources
- Acceptable Use Policy