



# SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

SAFEGUARDING EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

## Designated safeguarding Leads

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## Useful numbers

Childline

0800 1111

Wigan Safeguarding Hub

01942 486262

Wigan Social care Referral and Assessment team

01942 828 300

# Internet Safety

**2 Weeks ago was Internet Safety day. The pupils had assemblies on why it is important to protect ourselves online.**

Here are our top 10 tips to stay safe on social media:

1. Use a strong password. The longer it is, the more secure it will be.
2. Use a different password for each of your social media accounts.
3. Set up your security answers. This option is available for most social media sites.
4. If you have social media apps on your phone, be sure to password protect your device.
5. Be selective with friend requests. If you don't know the person, don't accept their request. It could be a fake account.
6. Click links with caution. Social media accounts are regularly hacked. Look out for language or content that does not sound like something your friend would post.
7. Be careful about what you share. Don't reveal sensitive personal information ie: home address, financial information, phone number. The more you post the easier it is to have your identity stolen.
8. Become familiar with the privacy policies of the social media channels you use and customize your privacy settings to control who sees what.
9. Protect your computer by installing antivirus software to safeguard. Also ensure that your browser, operating system, and software are kept up to date.
10. Remember to log off when you're done.

It is important that our pupils use social media responsibly. If they don't they can leave themselves susceptible to befriending inappropriate people or even child abusers.

# Cyber Bullying

Cyberbullying is any form of bullying that is carried out through the use of electronic media devices, such as computers, laptops, smartphones, tablets, or gaming consoles.

So often there is never an intention to bully someone on line or over games but there is a fine line about what can be perceived as banter or bullying. The fact of the matter is that if the recipient does not like what is being said it cannot be banter and must not be continued.

Liking something unpleasant is as bad as writing the initial comment itself, that is agreeing with that person in writing.

We should only ever say things on social media that we would be happy saying to someone in person and in private.

## Dangers Of Being Groomed Online

**Grooming** is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or trafficking. Children and young people can be **groomed online** or face-to-face, by a stranger or by someone they know - for example a family member, friend or professional.

The most common way grooming online takes place is through Adults posing as children and generate a friendship. This can happen on a variety of social media apps such as Facebook, Snapchat, Gaming platforms, Instagram and more commonly recently, forums that discuss games and other young peoples interests. The perpetrators use fake profiles and photographs to encourage their victims to generate a connection with them. At the point at which they have generated some trust, they usually request then start to request photos being sent. At first, the photographs may be quite innocent but as this line of communication becomes more established then the requests become more sinister. The Groomer is looking for a way to be able to black mail the victim and to ensure the relationship can continue. The perpetrator then ensures this continues by threatening to share the photographs with others. If a child finds themselves in this position they need to tell someone. Keeping this to themselves will not help. The perpetrator is hoping that they will remain silent.

There are many websites that can offer more information and advice about keeping children safe on line. Two such useful websites are: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> and <https://www.internetmatters.org/>