



# SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

SAFEGUARDING EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

## Designated safeguarding Leads

Alison Bolton

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## Useful numbers

Childline

0800 1111

Wigan Safeguarding Hub

01942 486262

Wigan Social care Referral and Assessment team

01942 828 300

# Swim Safe

At this time of year we get an increasing number of pupils who want to cool down by swimming in open water. This is extremely dangerous..

## Dangers of cooling off in open water

The water may look calm on the surface, but there may still be strong undercurrents that could pull even a strong swimmer under.

The water may also feel relatively warm on the surface, but just a few feet below can be icy cold even in the hot weather and can very quickly cause severe cramp and hypothermia, shock which can lead to drowning..

Young people often misjudge their swimming ability - they may view a river or lake as a tempting means of cooling off during a hot spell of weather, but fail to appreciate the harmful effects that the cold water can have on their stamina and strength.

Due to these dangers, we are urging people, particularly children and teenagers, not to swim anywhere other than in purpose-built and supervised swimming pools, unless they are members of an [organised group](#).

## Key safety tips for staying safe near water

The following are some key safety tips for staying safe near water:

- Alcohol and swimming do not mix - stay out of the water if you have been drinking.
- Always watch your child while at the beach, lake or other natural bodies of water.
- Never let older children swim in unsupervised areas like quarries, canals or ponds.
- Do not swim near motor boats, jet skis or other power vehicles.
- Never interfere with lifesaving equipment - you might need it yourself.
- Learn to spot and keep away from dangerous water.
- Take safety advice - heed notices which warn you of the danger.
- Children should always visit open water sites with a grown-up.
- Swimming anywhere other than at purpose built and supervised swimming pools is highly dangerous and is not recommended, unless as part of an [organised club](#).

# Peer on Peer Abuse

In the last issue I provided some information on Peer on Peer abuse. Just to remind us. Peer on Peer abuse can involve the following:

Peer-on-peer abuse includes, but is not limited to:

- physical and sexual abuse
- sexual harassment and violence
- emotional harm
- on and offline bullying
- teenage relationship abuse

It can even include grooming children for sexual and criminal exploitation.

It's hard to say just how widespread a problem it is. But we know that there's extensive evidence of peer-on-peer abuse in the context of both sexual and criminal exploitation. In autumn last year, the NSPCC announced a 29% increase in children seeking help from Childline due to peer-on-peer sexual abuse. The issue has, understandably, been scrutinised in the media recently.

More information on Peer on Peer abuse can be found in "Keeping children safe in education". Schools and colleges are expected to follow this guidance.

Any concerns regarding Peer on Peer abuse should be reported to school immediately where there will always be a full investigation and an outcome.

The DFE have released a dedicated help line for concerns over Peer on Peer abuse:

**0800 136 663**

## Click Bait

something (such as a headline) designed to make readers want to click on a hyperlink especially when the link leads to content of dubious value or interest. It is difficult to remember a time when you could scroll through the social media outlet of your choice and not be bombarded with: *You'll never believe what happened when ... This is the cutest thing ever ... This the biggest mistake you can make ... Take this quiz to see which character you are on ...* They are all classic **clickbait** models.

Children should be educated on the potential dangers of clickbait headlines such as distressing content, a thirst for more or even links which are dubious or even dangerous

## Anti-Social Behaviour

Please be aware of where your children are at night, especially as the weather gets warmer. There has been an increase in anti social behaviour incidents in and around the Lowton and Golborne area. These are very often in conjunction with taking alcohol and drugs and other highs such as nitrous oxide. When under the influence of anything, pupils' inhibitions are lowered and they can end up in a position of vulnerability or danger. The police continue to operate Operation Blue-fin" which is GMP's strategy to combat ant-social behaviour. Any concerns, please contact school.

## COVID 19

Anyone who feels they are suffering because of the impact of the pandemic please do not feel you are alone. School can help and offer support and guidance. Please contact us by using the email address

Safeguarding@golbornehigh.wigan.sch.uk