



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

Anti-Bullying

Since we have come out of lockdown, nationally we have seen an escalation of bullying incidents. It probably comes as no surprise that the majority of incidents take place on line.

What issues are arising?

- Inviting children into ready made groups on Snap Chat and What's App with the sole purpose to abuse them on line.
- Creating fake accounts to humiliate pupils
- Putting nasty comments on posts that are shared to social media accounts.
- Making Tic-Toc videos about individuals and sharing them on social media platforms
- Making Memes about other pupils.
- Sharing of unhealthy sites about self harm and eating disorders and other mental health issues

These are a few of the issues that have become more of an issue since the pandemic.

Why has this happened?

During the period of time when the country was in lockdown. Young people became much more reliant on communicating via social media. In many ways this was encouraged by society as quite rightly, we did not want our young people to become isolated from their friends. In a long period of time where they could not leave their house, communicating via social media became the next best alternative. However, communicating using social media is different from how we deal with people face to face. We are much braver on social media and see the distance between the devices as a protective barrier. The way we speak to people via a device is completely different to how we would react to them face to face. Young people are more susceptible to trends on social media and will be more inclined to follow those trends if they are virtual. There seems to be much more of a pack mentality on social media. Young people tend to "follow the crowd more" Finally, it is evident to see that young people do not show empathy on social media in the same way as if they saw something happening in real life.

How can parents help?

Know what your children are doing on their accounts. Talk to children about their experiences on line. Childline have some really useful resources

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/feeling-good-on-social-media/>

Anti-Social Behaviour

It still saddens me that there are still a lot of reports regarding pupil behaviour outside school towards sometimes quite vulnerable and elderly members of the community. We need to be kind to each other and celebrate being part of our community.

The behaviour of the pupils outside school still impacts on us. Even when our pupils are dressed in their own clothes, it is amazing how many members of the public know they attend here.

Pupils need to conduct themselves as they do when they are in the school community and be aware of the impact their behaviour has on others. I have received two phonecalls recently from one elderly neighbour who is frightened to walk past the bus stop through fear of what will be said and one parent with a young child who does not want to walk past the school when pupils are entering and leaving the school.

We are aware that there are arrangements in place for friends who live out of the area being dropped off. When they do not live here they do not care about our community like we do.

We are working closely with the police and antisocial behaviour teams to improve our local area for all.

Vaping

What are E-cigarettes?

- E-cigarettes are electronic devices that heat a liquid and produce an aerosol, or mix of small particles in the air.
- E-cigarettes come in many shapes and sizes. Most have a battery, a heating element, and a place to hold a liquid.
- Some e-cigarettes look like regular cigarettes, cigars, or pipes. Some look like USB flash drives, pens, and other everyday items. Larger devices such as tank systems, or "mods," do not look like other tobacco products.
- E-cigarettes are known by many different names. They are sometimes called "e-cigs," "e-hookahs," "mods," "vape pens," "vapes," "tank systems," and "electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)."
- Using an e-cigarette is sometimes called "vaping."
- The use of e-cigarettes is unsafe for kids, teens, and young adults.
- Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine. Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development, which continues into the early to mid-20s.¹
- E-cigarettes can contain other harmful substances besides nicotine.

Young people who use e-cigarettes may be more likely to smoke cigarettes in the future.

E-cigarettes are widely available at the moment. Some retailers are happy to sell them to young people. There is also a black market for e-cigarettes. The industry is not yet regulated.

Remember, during the war. Cigarettes were sold as medicinal help to soldiers on the front line. We would never think they were safe to use now. Will we not be saying the same about vaping in 10 years time?

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