

Parent/Carer Safeguarding Newsletter

Welcome to the third edition of our Safeguarding Newsletter. Keeping children safe at Ecclesfield School is our number one priority and we know that the most effective way for us to support our young people is to work in partnership with their parents/carers.

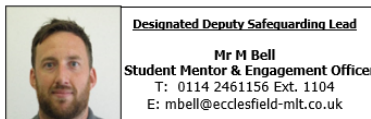
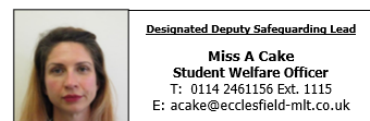
With context and risks changing all of the time we thought parents may find that information and guidance on key topics and how to access support may be beneficial so we look forward to regularly sharing updates with you.

At Ecclesfield School we have a highly qualified and experienced team who are available to support you with any concerns or worries you may have. Please don't hesitate in contacting the safeguarding team directly or by requesting a contact;

<https://ecclesfield-school.com/contact>



SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION



Other members of school staff who are advanced safeguarding trained are:

Mrs J Brown – Pastoral Leader (T: 0114 2461156 Ext. 1111, E: JBrown@ecclesfield-mlt.co.uk)
Mrs H McManus – Pastoral Leader (T: 0114 2461156 Ext. 1189, E: HMcManus@ecclesfield-mlt.co.uk)
Mrs B Foster – Pastoral Leader (T: 0114 2461156 Ext. 1189, E: BFoster@ecclesfield-mlt.co.uk)
Mr C Day – Pastoral Leader (T: 0114 2461156 Ext. 1109, E: CDay@ecclesfield-mlt.co.uk)
Miss L Travis – Pastoral Leader (T: 0114 2461156 Ext. 1195, E: LTravis@ecclesfield-mlt.co.uk)

Online Safety

The online world can be incredibly useful for our children when used correctly, unfortunately we have seen an increase of concerns linked to online safety both in school and out. There are many risks online that children may not be prepared for if they come across them. Some of these risks include;

- **Questionable content:** The internet has a lot of information and entertainment, but also some content that is inappropriate, violent, or disturbing for young students. They may accidentally see or hear something that could scare them, confuse them, or harm their well-being.
- **Online predators:** Some people on the internet may pretend to be someone else and try to contact young students for malicious purposes. They may ask for personal information, send unwanted messages, or persuade them to meet in real life. These people can be very manipulative and hard to identify, so young students need adult guidance and supervision to protect themselves.
- **Harassment and bullying:** The internet can also be a place where young students face peer pressure, criticism, or abuse from others. This can happen on social media, online games, or chat platforms. Young students may not know how to deal with these situations or how to report them, so they need adult support and advice to cope and stay safe.
- **Sharing personal information:** The internet can also expose young students to scams, frauds, or identity theft. Some websites or apps may ask for personal or financial information that should not be shared online. Young students may not be able to tell the difference between legitimate and fake requests, so they need adult oversight and education to avoid being tricked or exploited.

Explicit Images

It is against the law to send nude images or sexual videos of anyone under the age of 18. It is also against the law for anyone to take or save a nude image or sexual video even if it is a selfie of an under 18 year old. Despite this, a recent survey by www.dosomething.org suggests that 40% of teenagers have been sent an explicit image and 22% of teen girls and 18% of teen boys have sent an explicit image of themselves.

It is important to have open conversations with your child about what they are doing online from a young age, especially about the types of content they're sharing. Start by talking to them about image sharing in general and ask your child what sort of photos they'd feel comfortable posting online. This will give you a chance to see how much they already know about what is and isn't appropriate to share. Remind them to never post or send anything that contains personal information and encourage them to come to you if they're ever asked to share anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.

If your child is older you might want to talk to them more directly about sharing nude images online. We know that this can be an awkward topic to bring up we would recommend reading Childline's advice on sharing nude images and sexting to give you some tips around how to approach it and what language to use. <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/sexting>

Look out for opportunities in everyday life to start a discussion informally, such as a storyline on TV. This way you can have a conversation about sexting and sharing nude images without it being the main focus.

If you are ever worried about an image of your child or another child online this can be reported to the Internet Watch Foundation who can remove the image <https://report.iwf.org.uk/en/report>

Parent and Carer Help Sessions

We understand that having an understanding of parental controls and the different safety features on mobile phones can be overwhelming. If we have the interest we are really keen to put on some in person sessions for parents and carers to be talked through how to set up a variety of different controls and restrictions on your child's mobile phone. If this is something you would be interested in please complete the form below.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SskizAXdVEW0rNKHneOOtCBu52zB2hdPu2J-jKCs1LVUOU5JUTISU1U3WExSUFA5QVZRTDRZQkszM54u>

