

# SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN

## Dear parents and carers,

At Bassingbourn Village College, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and our top priority. Anyone who comes in to contact with children and their families has a role to play. As part of that, we are going to send out a new termly safeguarding newsletter informing you of any recent safeguarding news as well as providing you with key details around a range of relevant safeguarding issues.

Best wishes,

Heather Edwards - Designated Safeguarding Lead

## Who to contact if you have a concern about a child

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

The following members of staff are Designated Safeguarding People for Bassingbourn Village College:

- Ms Edwards
- Ms Poulter
- Miss Larkins
- Ms Wells

They can be contacted via the school office, 01763 242344.

For a copy of our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding 2021 Policy, please visit the 'Policies' page on our school website: <https://bassingbournvc.net/parents/policies/>

## Safeguarding in our school

The highest level of safeguarding concerns being raised in school by teachers this academic year is for student's mental health. Please be aware that we offer many sources of support in school for students. **If you need some advice, please speak to your child's Mentor, Achievement Leader or ask to speak to a DSL.**

**Young Minds** have lots of practical advice and tips for parents - from how to encourage your child to open up about their feelings to dealing with mental health services. They also have a Parents Helpline if you're worried about a child or young person and want further support and advice.

**Place2Be**, has a website aimed at helping parents With typical situations they may experience with Children.  
Advice can be found on over forty topics  
[ihttps://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/](https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/)



Improving children's  
mental health

## Online Safety

Using online facilities to help with learning, keep in contact with others and to give some 'down time' is part of all of our lives, but it is important that we all know how to keep children and young people safe when doing so.

All social networking platforms and apps have minimum age limits. Some social networks use technologies that might not be appropriate for some ages, or engage with communities that are made up of people much older than your child.

### What are the risks of an underage social networking account?

- Many sites include an instant message function which allows private conversations.
- Not everyone your child meets online will be who they say they are.
- Chat rooms and forums can connect people who are complete strangers and can be un-moderated.
- Information shared between friends can be easily copied and may spread.
- It isn't easy to take back information that has been posted – and can be impossible if it's already been shared.
- Chat rooms and forums are one of the places online groomers go to connect with children



**WhatsApp** is an instant messaging app which lets you send messages, images and videos in one-to-one and group chats with your contacts. You can choose to share your live location for up to eight hours with one contact or a group.  
**Official Rating 16+**



**TikTok**  
TikTok (formerly called Musical.ly) is a social media platform that lets you create, share and discover 60 second videos. You can use music and effects to enhance your videos and you can also browse other people's videos and interact with them.  
**Official Rating 13+**  
Due to its content and use, the expert's view of this platform is that children and young people should not use it.

### What can I do to keep my child safe online?

1. **Set up devices safely:** Make sure you set it up with your child, exploring any safety features. Remember to use parental controls!
2. **Keep children safe on conferencing apps:** Where possible supervise your child or check-in regularly when they use these apps; remind your child not to share chat links or passwords on social media; explore any security features like how to report and block; talk to your child about what they are sharing.
3. **Think about online routines:** Have a conversation with your child about online safety and agree some rules to help keep them safe.
4. **Have a conversation about online pressures and cyberbullying:** Remember to talk to your child about what they are doing online and who they are talking to.
5. **Check in with them regularly and remind them they can talk to you,** another trusted adult, like a teacher, or a Child Line counsellor about anything they are worried about.

#### Supporting your child with reporting unwanted content online:

Make sure they know about NCA CEOP: Young people can report a concern about grooming or sexual abuse to NCA CEOP at <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> and get support from a specialist Child Protection Advisor.

#### For further information or support checkout:

Internet Matters – wide range of online safety advice for parents to keep their children safe on-line.  
<https://www.internetmatters.org/>