**St. Edmund’s and St. Benet’s RC Primary Schools.**

**Safeguarding Bulletin**

**Spring Term 2023**

**Each term I will send out any updates for you as parents about current topics around safeguarding in schools. It is important to be aware so that we can all work together to ensure our children are safe in all areas of their lives.**

We are seeing a growing number of children using social media sites and being exposed to inappropriate and unsafe content on these sites. We would like to remind parents that most social media sites have an age restriction of 13+.

Later this term, we will be having an online safety day, where children will learn how to keep themselves and others safe online.

**Oversharing**

Children and young people can sometimes feel pressure to overshare online. Remind them that they shouldn’t share private things, such as:

• personal information, like names, phone numbers, links to other social media accounts or their school

• live or frequent locations

• other people's personal information

• links to join private group chats

• photos of themselves, photos of their body

**Sharing their location**

Many apps and games give you the option to share your location. You should help children think about how and when they’re sharing it. Some of the ways they may be likely to share location include:

 • tagging photos with the geo-location

• checking into venues

 • sharing journeys

• location settings on your child’s device

 • sharing images or videos that contain street names etc. If shared publicly, their location could be seen by someone they don’t know. People could find out where they live or go to school, allowing an accurate picture of their daily routine to be built up.

**Talking to people they don’t know**

 Some social networking such as Omegle and Kidschat.net promote connecting you to chat with people you don’t know. This puts young people at risk of grooming or online forms of abuse, along with the risk of moving the conversation to other platforms or meeting up offline. You should be aware of this across all social media.

**Sending or receiving inappropriate content**

Young people can feel pressured into sharing content that could be harmful to themselves or others. This could be in the form of sexting or sharing nudes, or it might be sharing memes and images of others without their consent – which can be a form of cyberbullying. DMs (direct messages) can be used to share very quickly and they have no control over how the image is shared further. Some social platforms have features such as disappearing messages – where an image or text will only show for a certain amount of time for the recipient before deleting. This might make users feel they can share more, but the recipient can still screenshot and forward the content to others.

**Unrealistic sense of body image or reality**

With so many influencers and users sharing photos, children can feel under pressure to conform to the ‘ideal’ body and lifestyle. It’s important to talk about positive body image and help children see that what others post is a curated version of their life, and to question what they see online.

***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.*

***Mrs Barlow***

***Miss Lyons***

***Miss Roberts (St Benet’s)***

***Mrs Curtis (St Edmund’s)***

***You can contact us through the school office email or by phone.***

**Age restrictions of Social Media Apps**

Please be mindful that social media apps are not appropriate for pupils under the age of 13. Below are the age restrictions for the most popular apps:

What's App—16 years +

Instagram—13 years +

Facebook—13 years +

Snapchat—13 years +

TikTok—13 Years +

**Safeguarding Governor**

Our Safeguarding Governor at St Edmund’s and St Benet’s is Mary Ellwood. The safeguarding governor’s responsibilities include:

- Behaviour and recruitment of both staff and volunteers

- Ensuring the school is following safe recruitment procedures and reviewing all activity and policy relating to the physical and emotional well-being of all children

- Seeking improvement to ensure the school follows best practice in creating a productive and safe environment for all.

She can be contacted through the school office emails. Office.stedmunds@cpswv.org or office.stbenets@cpswv.org