# Parish CE Primary School

# Safeguarding Update Spring 2024-2025

## 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 Team straight away.

The following members of staff are part of the Safeguarding Team at Parish;

- Mr Hardy (DSL)
- Mrs Young (DDSL)
- Mrs Morris (DDSL)
- Mrs Moore (DDSL)

They can be contacted via the school office, or by telephone on 01744 678430

Safeguarding Governor:  Rev Harry Wood

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*For a copy of our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding 2024 Policy, please visit the 'Safeguarding' page on our school website.

https://www.parish.st-helens.sch.uk/page/policies/11392

You can also contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01744 676767

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Dear Parents,

We are delighted to present the second edition of our Parent Safeguarding Newsletter for the 2024 academic year. These newsletters are to assist you in developing a deeper understanding of safeguarding issues that may impact your child, yourself, or members of our local community. **The focus of this newsletter is on Online Safety and how to keep your children safe when using the internet.**

**What is safeguarding and child protection?**
Safeguarding is the action you take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding means:

- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's health and development
- providing support to meet children's needs when problems emerge
- ensuring children grow up with safe and effective care, within their family where possible
- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

Child protection is part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm. This includes child protection procedures detailing how to respond to concerns about a child.

# Online safety – How to keep your children safe online

## Advice for parents of children under 10 years old

- **Enable access to devices with limited features** - Device usage at this age is best kept to devices with limited capability. This could include tablets without data and non-smart phones that only allow calls and texts.
- **Keep tech use visible in the home** - Try to keep tech use in shared family spaces or used with bedroom doors open. This will allow you to support your child and be more aware of what they are doing online.
- **Follow age ratings** – Apps, sites and games come with age ratings which are important to follow. You can find out the age rating on the website for the platform or on the safeguarding page of the Parish website.
- **Use safety settings** – Explore the in-app and device safety settings with your child and check them regularly to make sure they are still in place.
- **Revisit parental controls** – as children grow up and need the internet more for schoolwork you may want to adjust your parental controls. Keep checking these regularly to make sure they are in place.
- **Have regular safety conversations** – at this age online safety conversations should be happening regularly.
- **Build healthy habits** - acknowledge the positives it brings as part of your safety conversations and agree rules and boundaries together as a family.

## Advice for parents of pre-teens and teens

- **Follow age requirements** - Many popular Apps, sites and games are 13+, it's important to check and follow these with pre-teens.
- **Speak to phone providers** - If your child owns their own smartphone then contact the service provider to make sure it is registered as a child's device. This means additional safety restrictions can be put in place.
- **Support your child with their settings** - Support your child to manage their safety and wellbeing settings across devices and accounts.
- **Focus on regular safety conversations** – It's important to keep conversations regular at this age. Check online advice on tackling challenging conversations including tips for how to use technology to support you with this.
- **Share youth facing help and support** - Make sure your child knows about services that can help like Childline. You could start by sharing the online safety advice content and the Report Remove tool created by the Internet Watch Foundation and Childline.
- **Revisit parental controls** – you will likely need to revisit your parental controls again at this age and adjust them. Keep checking these regularly to make sure they are in place.
- **Explore healthy habits together** – Healthy habits work best when all the family agrees to following them. This could be agreeing to charge devices away from beds to support sleep and not using devices during mealtimes to help take breaks.

## Advice for parents of children with SEND

- **Parents are best placed to know their child** – This is particularly true for children with SEND. We recommend parents consider the right age and stage for their child based off the level of support they need.
- **Make use of tech to support** – We know tech can be vital for communication, learning and sensory or emotional regulation for children with special educational needs. It's important that children continue to receive access that is right for them.
- **Explore all relevant strategies** – While age-based recommendations may not be appropriate they can instead be approached as a list of practical strategies for parents to explore.
- **Use resources tailored to children with SEND** – Ambitious about Autism have tailored advice and resources for parents to use with their children.



**PARISH SAFEGUARDING TEAM**

*Remember! You can always speak to your child's class teacher if you have any safeguarding concerns.*