

St Oswald's C of E Primary School

Safeguarding Bulletin February 2020

Safer Neighbourhood Team

Junior Community Citizens

Our 'Safeguarding Awareness Squad' (SAS) has been working with PCSO, Zara Williams to identify any concerns regarding where they live or in the surrounding school area. After meeting with the PCSO, the SAS talked to children in KS2 classes, gathered their ideas and gave feedback to Zara.

Concerns raised included:

Litter on the floor

Glass on the floor

Cigarette packets dropped

Graffiti on the walls

Vandalism



This project is aimed at making our community a better place to live so that our children feel safe. Well done to the SAS and St Oswald's children for making a difference!



Internet Safety Day

Tuesday 11th February 2020

E-safety is part of our PSHE curriculum and is taught regularly in school. On Internet Safety Day each class completed a lesson about e-safety and discussed their ideas about keeping safe online. If you would like to know more about e-safety in the curriculum look on our website in the Child Protection and Safeguarding section to find the 'Safeguarding across the Curriculum' document.

Also, at the UK Safer Internet Centre, you can find online safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe online: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

Worcestershire Young Carers

What is Worcestershire Young Carers?

<https://www.yss.org.uk/worcestershire-young-carers>



Worcestershire Young Carers has been successfully delivered by YSS since 2003. The service is commissioned by Worcestershire County Council to provide assessment, signposting, one to one support and monthly youth clubs for young people with a caring role at home, aged between seven and 17, who live in Worcestershire.

Additionally, the service provides support to young people aged between 18 and 25 who are considered young adult carers. The caring role could be for a parent, a sibling or a grandparent due to illness, disability, physical or mental health difficulties or substance misuse.

The Education Link Worker delivered an assembly at St Oswald's to raise awareness of young carers and the issues they face. We look forward to a return visit when workshops will take place.

Instagram

Parent / Carer Advice



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What is Instagram?

Instagram is a social media platform which focuses on the creation and sharing of images, providing users with a range of filters and special effects popular among younger users.

Despite requiring users to be 13 or older, a study in January 2017 indicated that 43% of 8-11 year olds in Britain are using Instagram.

Safety Tips



As with all Internet activity, talk to your child about how they use Instagram, the importance of not 'oversharing', and any issues they have faced.



It is safest to change the default privacy settings in your child's account from public to private. If your child is older and you agree for them to have a public account, you should discuss strategies for coping with negative feedback and for blocking users. You should also monitor messages they receive.



Given Instagram's reported impact on young people's mental health, keep an eye out for early warning signs of such issues with your child. Seek professional support or consult online services



such as Shout at the earliest point of concern.



Regularly spring-clean your child's Instagram account with them by removing any posts and images you agree are inappropriate and blocking any concerning contacts. If you have any concerns that somebody might be trying to groom your



child you should immediately contact CEOP.

Reasons for concern



Privacy settings

A key concern regarding children's use of Instagram is the fact that the default privacy setting for accounts is 'public'. As such, unless a child actively alters their privacy settings, all of the pictures they post to Instagram will be available to anybody. This could result in their images being seen by inappropriate individuals and might lead to receiving unwanted communication.



Follower lists

In a world where celebrity success is measured by numbers of social media followers, it is understandable that children might want to grow their own list of followers. A child's non-private account can quickly grow with followers, some of whom might not have entirely innocent motives.



Terms and conditions

Instagram's 5,000-word terms and conditions states that users agree that Instagram can use and sell their images for others to use (without paying or further consent). Instagram also retains the right to store, use and share the personal information and direct messages of their users.



Grooming

In 2019 the NSPCC reported that Instagram was involved in more online grooming cases than any other online platform. Where the police recorded the method of communication, Instagram was used in 32% of cases, in contrast to Facebook at 23% and Snapchat at 14%.



Mental health issues

A report by the Royal Society for Public Health found that Instagram rated as the worst social media platform when it comes to its impact on young people's mental health. Being image-centred the RSPH claimed that Instagram (along with Snapchat) appears to be driving feelings of inadequacy and anxiety in young people.