



St Felix RC Primary School Safeguarding Bulletin

Autumn 2023



How to report a Safeguarding Concern

If you have a concern about a child who attends St Felix you can speak to a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). These are Mrs Dodds, Mrs Naylor and Mrs Bamlett. You can email admin@st-felixrc.suffolk.sch.uk or call 01440 703775 and ask for a DSL to get in touch with you or call into school between 8am and 5pm.

If a child is at immediate risk of harm, you should contact the police on 999.

If the child or young person does not attend St Felix you can make a safeguarding referral about an immediate risk to the safety of a child please call Customer First on 0808 800 4005. In an emergency, call the Police on 999

Wellbeing Survey

In October we undertook a wellbeing survey with the children in KS2. The picture was positive and pupils feel safe and happy. However, only 58% of pupils feel loved all the time and so with support from the Safeguarding Governor, we dug a little deeper. Pupils from Reception up to Y6 talked about being loved and could describe the ways in which this happens, which was reassuring. We are finding extra opportunities to remind pupils in school that they are always loved. Repeating this at home would be a positive step. A common response from pupils was that their parents, mums especially, are always on their phones.



Online Safety

The most frequent safeguarding concern we deal with in school is online safety. The most prevalent area is conduct on **WhatsApp** groups whilst children are out of school. Children of primary age struggle to regulate their behaviour in this arena. Unkindness, bullying, racism and sexism have all had to be addressed. The children, who are admin of the group, can choose who to invite and therefore groups, which parents thought to be friends from the class, have included friends of friends, often older. Not all parents remove devices or set usage limits at night and we have had instances within school of pupils sending message late at night. WhatsApp has had a minimum age of 16 since 2018 because of the data which it collects about users, but previously had a minimum age of 13. The NSPCC identifies the following risks:

Unwanted Contact - To contact somebody on WhatsApp, all you need is their phone number. This means that your child could be at risk of receiving unwanted messages or calls from others.

Pressure to Respond - Features that allow other users to see when your child is online, if they have read a message or when they were last active on the app, could make your child feel pressured to respond even when they don't want to.

Location sharing - The live location feature means that your child could reveal their current location to others. This feature can be used in groups as well as individual chats so your child could reveal this information to people that they don't know if they are in the same group.

Inappropriate content - WhatsApp messages are end-to-end encrypted which means that the content cannot be monitored. This means that your child could see or hear harmful or upsetting content.

Cyberbullying - WhatsApp groups can be controlled by an 'admin', who can change settings, such as the name of the group, who is allowed to send messages, as well as being able to invite and remove people from the chat. This could lead to children feeling left out or being deliberately excluded or removed from groups.

Oversharing - Privacy features, such as disappearing and 'view once' messages, might mean that your child feels safe to reveal private information or images. However, there is always a risk that an unintended person might see what they have sent, for example if they are with the recipient.

Expectation of parents' behaviour

Each member of our community must ensure that the dignity and rights of members of the local community, visitors, pupils and all staff are recognised and protected at all times. People must be treated with fairness, equity and courtesy in accordance with both the Trust and St Felix policies and the law.