

March 2024 Safeguarding Newsletter

Safeguarding, everyone's responsibility

Useful Contacts:

Designated Safeguarding Lead/Prevent Lead: Ms Walker r.walker@fulwoodacademy.co.uk Preston Safeguarding Hub: 0300 123 6720 or out of hours 0300 123 6722 (5pm - 8am) Food banks: Salvation Army - 01772 555425, Luv Preston - 01772 298107 Noor Food Bank - 07921 887383 or 07764 432643

In this month's issue:

- · Child on child abuse
- Young people and knife crime
- App focus WhatsApp

Understanding Child-on-Child Abuse

Child-on-child abuse refers to any inappropriate behaviour between children that is abusive in nature. This type of abuse is so named because it typically involves individuals who are similar in age or developmental stages.

Child-on-child abuse can occur either inperson or online, and it can happen anywhere – at school, in the park, or even within the confines of a child's own home via internet-connected devices. This type of abuse encompasses physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, harassment, exploitation, bullying, coercive control, and initiation rituals.

It is important to keep in mind that child-onchild abuse can cause harm to both the victim and the perpetrator. There is often a complex web of reasons why a child may engage in abusive behaviour towards another.

Spotting the signs that your child may be experiencing abuse:

- noticeable change in behaviour not wanting to go to school or
- spend social time with specific friends withdrawn or mood
- changes changes in the times
- spent online asking for money
- or giving belongings away/losing belongings



HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT STAYING SAFE IN VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTS

Children who are aware of risks and safety measures are better equipped to recognise potential abuse situations.

HAVE ACCESS TO THEIR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS AND USE PARENTAL CONTROLS ON THEIR DEVICES



BE AWARE OF YOUR CHILD'S SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND WHO THEY ARE SPENDING TIME WITH

Educate your child on the importance of choosing positive environments and companions. Show genuine interest in their activities and relationships.



TEACH THEM ABOUT BODY SAFETY

Support your child in understanding boundaries regarding their body. It is crucial for them to understand the concept of consent.

PROTECTION FROM ONLINE HARM

MY BODY

MY CHOICE

Teach children how to stay safe in the digital world, including social media apps, group chats, and streaming sites.



The_Enlightened_Parent

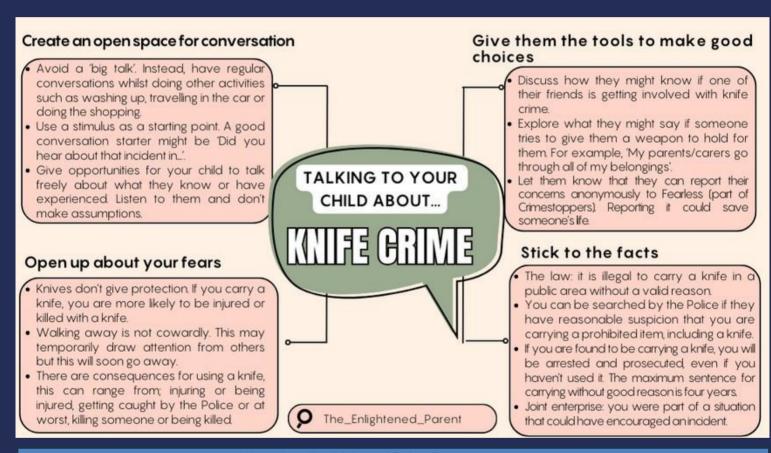


SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Knife Crime: Discussing the Topic With Your Child

In the current news climate, we often hear about knife and weapon-related incidents, but it may feel distant. As parents/carers, it's crucial to actively educate our children about these risks. Early intervention is key, and here are some strategies to consider:

- reassure your child that they can always talk to you if something feels wrong
- establish sensible socialising boundaries together
- keep track of their whereabouts and company, incorporating this into the agreed boundaries
- maintain open communication with your child's friends' parents/ carers



WhatsApp: The Risks and Safety Features

• Whilst WhatsApp may market some of its features as protecting the privacy of users, they also put children in a vulnerable position.



- End-to-endencryption means that only people in the chat can read the messages; this also means that chats cannot be monitored for illegal activity.
- Livelocationsharing can be useful but it also means that children and young people can put themselves in a vulnerable position by sharing their location to people they don't really know.
- Viewonce allows content to be sent and read by users only once before disappearing. This leaves children and young people vulnerable to being sent in appropriate content and not being able to report it as it has disappeared.
- Disappearing messages means that content disappears after either 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days. This may encourage a user to send more risky content as they believe it will disappear. It can be forwarded or a screen shot taken within that time and, therefore, shared with others.

<u>Tips on keeping your child safe on WhatsApp:</u>

- Check privacy settings (click the cog) to see what information is currently shared.
- Talk to your child about what to do if someone they don't know contacts them (they should tell you). Have open conversations about what is appropriate and inappropriate content to share.