

# Woodthorpe Primary School

Headteacher: Mr James McGann  
Chair of Governors: Mrs Jenny Parker

*Our school is a happy, exciting and caring community in which each child thrives.*

## Safeguarding update - September 2023

### Safeguarding at National Level - what is happening?

#### **Filtering & Monitoring - Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) - September 2023**

A large focus in this year's KCSIE guidance is around online filtering and monitoring. Whilst [this guide](#) helps to summarise some of the main aspects, we must be really clear on our definitions of online filtering & monitoring as this is everybody's responsibility:

**Online filtering** involves using software or hardware tools to control and restrict access to harmful or inappropriate websites and content categories. This can include URL, keyword or category-based filtering to help shield children from harmful material such as adult content, violence, drugs and hate speech. Filtering systems should be tailored to your setting.

**Online monitoring** is about observing and tracking your school community's digital activities, including web browsing, social media interactions and chat conversations. It aims to identify potential risks and rule violations and raise alerts that can be acted on. Some systems will also help in monitoring device usage by staff and students. Monitoring helps encourage students to become good digital citizens.

#### **Social media reminders for staff:**

As we head into a new school year, it is worth taking a moment to consider the safety of our own social media in order to ensure that our personal and professional lives remain separate. Keeping Children Safe In Education states that Employers are now actively encouraged to conduct online searches as part of recruitment due diligence checks. The procedures followed may be worth trying on your own social media and accounts in order to ensure the safety of all. A typical check may take on the following format (you may wish to replicate this to check the security of your own online presence):

- 1. Start with a light search by entering the candidate's name on search engines like Google. You might enhance this search by including the candidate's full name, location and current employer.**
- 2. Carry out a search on social media – your school may have IT systems in place that prohibit you from accessing social media sites, so ask IT to give your nominated individual access.**
- 3. Think about the types of images this candidate has made available to the public domain. Are they appropriate? Remember if you can find them, your students, parents and staff can too.**

It is however worth noting that every establishment is different and each has their own reasoning behind the online checks in place. If you require help, support or technical advice, [this website](#) contains a wealth of useful information and tips for keeping profiles private and safe. For further information on how to keep safe on individual platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat etc, please see [this link](#).

### Safeguarding at a local level - what is happening in Yorkshire?

#### **Hidden Deprivation**

Recent statistics show that over one quarter of households in the city are ranked as the highest social class. The latest Office for National Statistics data shows 43,325 of 150,939 applicable households, or 28.7 per cent, in York were ranked in the highest band – where the household reference person was in a higher or intermediate occupation. This was well above the average across England and Wales of 23.3 per cent. This is in stark contrast to our experiences as a school community, where we know that so many of our families live in deprivation and continue to struggle amidst difficult financial times.

It is within times of financial difficulty that we need to be especially aware of issues such as County Lines and be vigilant to other forms of child criminal and sexual exploitation to help protect young people from being exploited. This is highlighted in a recent report by [Barnardo's](#). Summer holidays can be a heightened risk for exploitation - a recent YouGov Poll shared that 1 in 3 children said they were worried about not having money for activities during the school holidays, and with children becoming less visible to some services over the holidays, perpetrators can use this time to groom and exploit children. As our families return to school there will invariably be an array of mixed emotions, but we know that for so many of our children, school is their safe and trusted space. For some of our children the thought of having to discuss their summer in front of others may be really difficult and worth remembering as we open our doors once more.

### Safeguarding at school level - what is happening in school?

#### **Road Safety**

Over the summer we were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of one of our ex-pupils. Our thoughts remain with the child's family and friends at this incredibly difficult time. It is always harrowing to hear about the death of a young person, particularly a child who was such a valued member of our school community. Reports suggest that speeding on one of our local roads was the cause of death and serves as a timely reminder of the dangers of the busy and bustling city in which we live and work. Whilst we continue to support our community as much as possible, we must also take a moment to consider any opportunities for us to strengthen our road safety messages as a school. Each year, our year 6 pupils undergo a 'Bikeability' program, supporting them to understand how to safely travel and behave on roads. Our PSHE curriculum also provides opportunities to explore road safety issues, particularly with our younger children. We also use opportunities such as school trips and local visits to promote positive road safety habits. For more information and advice, please see the following [website](#) which contains a wealth of useful information.

There are also lots of useful resources to help support road safety for children within the classroom, including the [THINK website](#) and [Roadwise](#).

If you would like to discuss the content of this document in any more detail, please speak to a member of our safeguarding team:

- **James McGann** Designated Safeguarding and Child Protection Leader
- **Charlotte Grason-Taylor** Designated Safeguarding and Child Protection Deputy
- **Lucy Scrowston** Safeguarding and Child Protection staff
- **Jenny Parker** Chair of Governors & Safeguarding Governor (report any concerns regarding the Headteacher directly to her under the Whistleblowing Policy)