

Theddlethorpe Academy

Safeguarding Update

Term 6: 2023/24

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 Leads straight away.

The following members of staff are Designated Safeguarding Leads for Theddlethorpe Primary School:

- Mrs Cook (DSL)
- Mrs Bull

They can be contacted via the school office, or by telephone on 01507 353 458.

For a copy of our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures please visit the 'Key Policies' page on our [school website](#)

Dear Parents and Carers

The internet has made it possible for us to engage in a wide variety of activities, such as playing games, conversing with other people, watching television, or sharing our movies and images. Even while being online may be a wonderful experience, it is essential that we establish limits for our children in order to protect them while they are experimenting with being online, to help them develop their digital resilience, and to ensure that they are aware of what to do in the event that something terrible occurs while they are online.

Mrs Cook, Principal / Designated Safeguarding Lead

So how can we help keep our children safe? We can start by checking age restrictions/ratings. It is important that we follow these to ensure that what our children are doing or seeing online is appropriate for their age.

Where can you find age ratings?

Films: The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) rate films. This page includes a link to a 'Parents' Guide to Age Ratings':

<https://www.cbbfc.co.uk/resources/viewing-films-safely-online>.

Video games: PEGI provides age classifications for video games. PEGI considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty. It is important to note that PEGI do not take into consideration user generated content within games (such as on Roblox) and chat facilities within games.

Apps: Check the individual age ratings within the relevant app store. We also recommend that you download any apps and play them yourself to check their suitability.

Social Media: All social media networks have a minimum age rating; they are all at least 13+.

What else can you do?

- Explain the importance of age ratings to your child.
- Go online together to see what your child is accessing.
- Set up parental controls on your broadband, devices and on any individual apps that your child is using. This will reduce the chances of them accessing or viewing anything unsuitable.
- Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and as always, remind your child that if anything is worrying them then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

Further information You can find out more here:

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit/take-control/understanding-age-ratings>

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



KiK

Kik state you must be 16 years of age to use the app.

What is Kik? <https://kik.com/>

Kik is classed as a social network where users can message each other, share photos/videos as well as video chat.

What do I need to be aware of?

- Groups – once a user joins a group then your child can receive messages from other members of that group. Some of the groups are centered around topics that are inappropriate for under 18s.
 - Location sharing
 - Explicit content – including images, videos and messages.
- Live streaming/videos - risk of seeing/hearing inappropriate content.
 - Talking to strangers

What parental controls does Kik offer?

Kik does have reporting and blocking tools as outlined here:

[What can I do if my teen has received an unwanted or inappropriate message? – Kik \(zendesk.com\)](#)

Further help and information

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/>
- [Chat apps | NSPCC](#)

Build and Talk with LEGO®

They have story-style Build & Talk activities, created for children ages 6 to 9, to support families with a playful way to engage in otherwise difficult conversations about digital safety topics whilst playing with LEGO® bricks. Covering six different topics, the activities are designed to help you and your child navigate the online world safely. You'll also find handy discussion starters to get the conversation going as you Build & Talk together.

[Build and talk - Sustainability - LEGO.com](#)

Online Gaming Safety Tips: For parents/carers of neurodivergent young people

Internet Matters have published guidance outlining the benefits and risks of online gaming and how you can support your neurodivergent child. You can read the guide here:

[Guidance for parents of neurodivergent gamers | Internet Matters by Internet Matters - Flipsnack](#)

WhatsApp Group warning

Whilst WhatsApp has an age rating of 13+ (recently lowered from 16), a BBC investigation has found that children as young as nine have been added to WhatsApp groups and seen inappropriate content. If your child is using WhatsApp, check their group settings as by default, group privacy settings are set to 'everyone,' which means anybody can add your child to a group without their approval.

You can change this setting to 'My Contacts' so only contacts can add them to groups without their approval and if somebody who is not a contact wants to add them to a group then they will need to send them an invite. You should talk to your child about the risks of joining groups and show them how to use the reporting/blocking tools.

You can find out more about the BBC investigation here: [Nine-year-olds added to malicious WhatsApp groups - BBC News](#)