

# Safeguarding Newsletter

PIONEER SECONDARY ACADEMY

Summer 2022



Now that the summer holidays are here, we hope you and your child/ren have an excellent few weeks.

We are aware that this can also be a time when some parents and carers may be worried about their children's safety if unsupervised. We know that some young people can feel unsure about how best to keep safe and what to do if they find themselves in a situation they are uncomfortable with.

It is important to us that all children and parents feel safe, that they can enjoy the summer break and know who to turn to if they have any concerns. We have compiled some useful information and contacts which parents/carers can turn to if they have child-related concerns, need support, information or advice, as well as some helpful resources for young people.



## **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL)**

Year 7 – Ms S Harb  
Year 8 – Mrs D Yousofian  
Year 9 – Ms N Toor  
Year 10 – Ms F Ahmed  
Year 11 – Mr T Wilson  
Years 12-14 – Mr A Kilbane

Head of Student Services : Mrs S Summerell  
Sikh Chaplin: Mrs N Kaur

## **Safeguarding Team**

The Pioneer Secondary Academy Safeguarding Team have been trained to an advanced level on all aspects of safeguarding. The team is available to any student, parent or school staff member to discuss and report any safeguarding concerns.

## **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Miss M Stone**



## **Training**

Since 1st May 2022 we have run a number of workshops for Parents, Students and Staff that were delivered by external speakers on Safeguarding, Diversity, Equality and Inclusion.

Examples of topics were: Toxic Masculinity, Online media law, Anti-Racism, Careers and Aspirations, Q&A with Sahara Sisterhood, Disability and Racism speaker, Keeping Child safe at home and Safeguarding yourself and Peers.

We also had targeted training on how to best support ALL students in lessons with scaffolding techniques/differentiation & strategies to support dyslexia/Autism/ADHD.



## Introduction

With the technological advances that had to be made during the lockdown periods over the last 18 months, learning from home was forced to be increased. This meant that young people were spending a lot more time on-line doing their schoolwork, gaming, and socialising.

However, it's important we all consider how we can help keep young people safer online. Here's some information about what your child may enjoy online and what you can do to help.

### Online gaming

Online games are social activities, and most have features that allow young people to chat with others whilst they play.

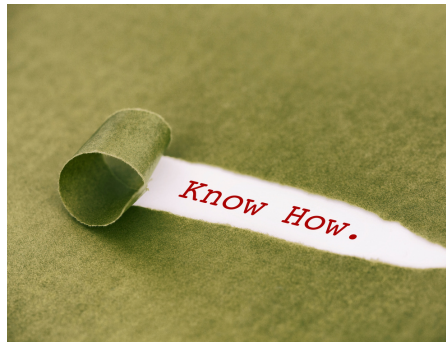
For information about the positives of gaming, the risks of 'in-game chat' and measures you can take to help protect your child, watch this short video by clicking on the image below.



### Sharing images and videos

Young people often share images or 'selfies' and there is potential for some of those to be nude or nearly nude images. Young people share 'nudes' for a number of different reasons, and some situations are riskier than others.

For information about the contexts in which images are shared and how best to respond, take a look at nude selfies: a parent's guide by clicking [here](#).



## ThinkuKnow

Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's Child Protection Command CEOP (NCA-CEOP). Their aim is to protect children and young people from sexual abuse online.

For more information, advice and guidance, visit their parents website and download their home activity worksheets for fun, online safety activities to do with your family click on the image below.



### Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online

- Have an ongoing conversation: Continue to talk about the apps, games and sites they like to use, and what they like and don't like and any concerns about being online. Discuss with them when to unfollow, block or report.

For help starting this conversation, read having a conversation with your child.

- Make sure they know where to go for support: Remind your child they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset.

Remind them that they won't be in trouble at that you are there to help.

- Make sure they know about NCA CEOP: Young people can report a concern about grooming or sexual abuse to NCA CEOP via



## Wellbeing Support

Wellbeing Support Is a Digital Mental Wellbeing website that has various support for young people, parents and carers, employers and employees and faith and belief communities.

You will find help on topics such as sleep, anxiety low mood and stress. There are podcasts, apps, workbooks, and guides together with self-assessments that you can take. Click the image below to take you straight to the Parent and Carers section of the website.



### Useful directory of subjects that you may require support for:



## Parent/Carer Learning Programme

Parents Protect has developed this online child sexual abuse and exploitation awareness learning programme for parents/carers and professionals to help:

- Understand potential risks
- Recognise the signs of possible abuse in children
- Beware of inappropriate behaviour in adults
- Know where to go for help if you have concerns and would like to talk about them





### On-Line Grooming

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) safety campaign aims to help parents have conversations with their children about keeping their 'door' closed to child sexual abusers. The campaign includes a booklet for parents, explaining the risks, explaining why children are vulnerable, and suggests practical steps that parents can take:

- TALK** to your child about online sexual abuse. Start the conversation – and listen to their concerns.
- AGREE** ground rules about the way you use technology.
- LEARN** about the platforms and apps your child loves.
- KNOW** how to use tools, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.



*Click on the logo for more information*

Safety guides on ALL aspects of internet use

a range of online safety advice for parents to keep children safe on-line

Parent guides in multiple languages



## Young Minds

During these extremely tough times, parents find themselves pulled in many different directions. Concerns about COVID-19, work from home/children at home, along with a possible financial impact make for a stressful household.

Young Minds have created a useful 'Supporting Parents Help Finder'. By answering six questions, parents can find out how to support their child's mental health during the pandemic (and beyond). Click on the logo above for more information.

## Parenting Smart

The children's mental health charity, Place2Be, has launched a new website aimed at helping parents with typical situations they may experience with children.

Advice can be found on over forty topics including:

- Understanding sibling rivalry**
- My child is lying, what does it mean, what should I do?**
- My child has trouble going to sleep**
- My child says, 'I hate you!'**
- Cultural identity: who am I?**



## Kooth

**Online Counselling Service for 11–25-year-olds in Buckinghamshire and Slough**

As part of Mental Health services for young people in Buckinghamshire and Slough, the service complements their existing early intervention services. It is a free online counselling and emotional wellbeing support service providing young people in Buckinghamshire and Slough, aged 11-25 years (up to 25th birthday), with a free, safe and secure means of accessing support with their emotional health and wellbeing from a professional team of qualified counsellors.



**Free, safe and anonymous support from Kooth.**



**WARNING:** By clicking on the image above, it contains images and details some people may find disturbing. This should not be shared with young children.

## Snapchat 'Meet Up'

We have received reports from parents and young people around a new feature found in popular app Snapchat.

This feature allows users to obtain directions to another user's exact location and address. Since its release, many users have expressed their outrage and have called out the platform for including it without notifying them.

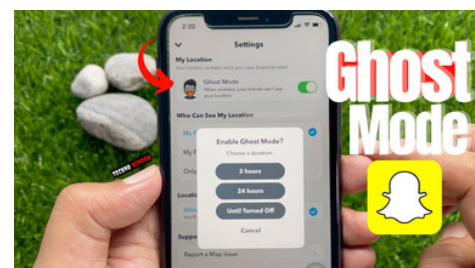
Whether you've seen the online backlash or not, it's important to remain calm and take proactive steps towards keeping the young people in your care safe. To help parents, carers, and safeguarding professionals, we have taken a look at 'Meet Up' to address the risks this feature brings and share our expert advice.



Snapchat does not offer any automatic location privacy – Snap Map is on by default.

The only form of location privacy available is called 'Ghost Mode'.

This tool allows users to remove all live location features from the app. For a step-by-step process on how to activate Ghost Mode, check out our online safety centre.



**Remember:** live location and/or addresses should only be shared with trusted family and friends.



### Edible Cannabis Gummies

We know that Weed/Cannabis edibles are becoming increasingly popular amongst children and young people and at times it can be difficult to spot the difference between the packaging of edibles and normal sweets in high street shops.

Edibles refer to a food product that have been infused with Weed/Cannabis such as chocolates, cakes, gummies, and drinks. The reason that they are of concern is due to the packaging being designed to be appealing and the fact that they don't necessarily smell like weed/cannabis.

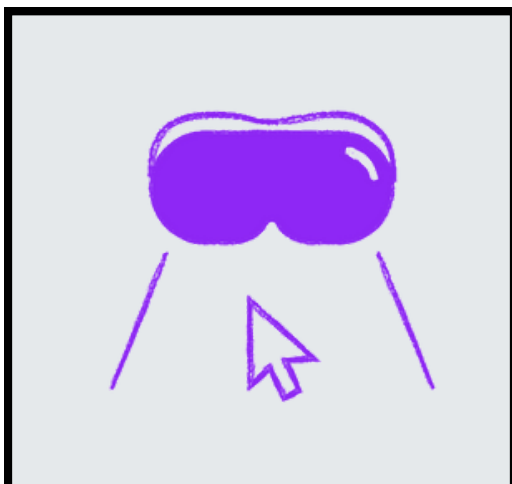


### What's the link between county drugs lines and cannabis edibles?

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas (within the UK), using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line".

They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move (and store) the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

We are concerned about the growing link between county drugs lines and cannabis edibles. Children are not only being targeted as a new market but are also being enticed with seemingly legal confectionery as a means of recruiting them into their ranks as couriers and dealers, who have no previous record and due to their age are more likely to go under the radar.



### The Metaverse

The metaverse uses radical new technologies, to make livable, virtual worlds.

**The metaverse could bring the online and offline worlds closer together.**

Click on the images to find out more.