



Safe At Summerhill

At Summerhill School we are committed to Safeguarding our children and young people as well as promoting positive well-being for all.

This Safeguarding newsletter, aims to help staff, parents and students alike to be aware of the safeguarding and mental health issues, giving you useful links and resources to use if you have concerns. If you have concerns or ideas for future topics please do not hesitate to contact us on the main school number 01384 816165 or via email on studentssupport@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk

Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion - Safeguarding Alert

The National Crime Agency has issued a warning in response to a global rise in financially motivated sexual extortion, commonly called 'sextortion.' The alert gives advice to safeguarding professionals and parents regarding the signs of sextortion, raising awareness, and supporting children to seek help as well as support for victims. This alert and resources below will provide you with further information on what sextortion is and how it happens, along with practical advice and signposting to help and further support.

If you haven't already, please start the conversation today. Foster a safe environment free of shame and judgement that educates and empowers a young person to come forward, speak to an adult they trust, who can reassure them with the help and support they may need. Early intervention is key: Be Aware. Respond. Report. If you would like to read more on this please follow this link [Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion](#)

Exam Time

If you're worried about how your child is coping with exams at school, here is our advice and information on where you can get help. Exams are a stressful time for any young person Mood swings and outbursts are more likely to occur during this period. Look out for other signs that your child may be struggling, including poor sleep patterns or a change in appetite or behaviour. It's worth preparing ways of supporting your child during exam weeks and thinking about how you will react and respond on the day if they don't get the result that they, or you, are hoping for. Things that can help your child in the lead up to exams Work with your child to find what revision style works for them. Encourage your child to take revision breaks and find a balance between studying and doing things they find enjoyable and relaxing. Reassure them – reinforce that you are and will be proud of them no matter what happens. Follow this link to read more and how to be supportive for your child in exam season. <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/exam-time/>

What Parents & Educators Can Learn from the Ofcom Media Report 2024

On 19th April 2024, Ofcom released their annual Media Use and Attitudes Report, detailing the findings of several surveys and their implications for parents, children and young people in the UK. These statistics often include plenty of thought-provoking information relating to online safety.

The report itself is extremely extensive, so instead we've provided a bespoke selection of data gathered by Ofcom about children and young people's experiences on social media, video games and the like. Check our guide for a thorough breakdown of the headline findings. Source

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/research-and-data/media-literacy-research/childrens/children-and-parents-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2024/children-and-parents-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2024-interactive-data>



Mrs Sprouting
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mr Randle
Deputy
Safeguarding
Lead



Ms Gordon
Deputy
Safeguarding
Lead



Mr Quirke
Deputy
Safeguarding
Lead



Mr Cresswell
Deputy
Safeguarding
Lead

What Parents & Educators Can Learn from the OFCOM MEDIA REPORT 2024

Each year, Ofcom - the UK's regulatory body for communications - produces an overview of children and parents' media experiences over the course of the previous year. At the time of writing, the latest of these reports, 'Children and parents: media use and attitudes 2024' has just been published, and we've plucked out some of its most thought-provoking findings regarding online safety.

ONLINE LIVES

99% of 8-17s had regular access to the internet

65% of 13-17s prefer short videos to films and TV

34% experienced harassment or bullying online

11-18s felt more confident communicating online (71%) than in person (53%)

87% of 8-17s felt pressure to be popular on social media

SCREEN TIME

By children's age group, the percentage of parents who felt less able to manage their child's screentime were ...



POPULAR PLATFORMS

Most used by children ...

Under-12s

Over-12s

89% YouTube

88% YouTube

37% WhatsApp

82% WhatsApp

35% TikTok

78% TikTok

27% Snapchat

73% Snapchat

22% Instagram

69% Instagram

ONLINE GAMING

68% of children played video games online

Who did these children most commonly play with?

74% played with someone they know

32% played with strangers

ONLINE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

93% 8-17s had at least one lesson about online safety

93% of children are aware of at least one thing they can do to stay safe online

91% children found these lessons useful

78% of 8-17s were aware of age restrictions for apps

40% admitted to faking their age to bypass these limits

PARENTAL CONCERNS

The things that most commonly worry parents and carers about their child being online include ...

77% seeing age-inappropriate content

70% being harassed or bullied

68% seeing pro-self-harm content

62% having their data gathered by companies

59% being influenced by extreme views

55% having their reputation damaged

51% being pressured to spend money

DEVICES MOST USED TO GO ONLINE

Age Group	Percentage	Device
3-4s	67%	use tablets
5-7s	77%	use tablets
8-10s	73%	use tablets
11-15s	95%	use phones
15-17s	97%	use phones

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College