

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our Autumn term safeguarding newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to support parents in having a greater understanding of safeguarding issues that may affect their child, themselves or members of the local community.

Safeguarding children is the way we promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. **Safe-guarding is everyone's responsibility and everyone has a role to play.** It's important staff and parents work together to do this.

At the end of this newsletter you will find information about who to speak to if you have concerns about a child's safety or welfare, however all our staff are trained in safeguarding if you want to discuss any concerns with them.

Any questions, please do ask.

Keeping children safe at school and home

This terms safeguarding newsletter is focusing on how to keep children safe.

Filtering and Monitoring

Berridge school has a filtering and monitoring system to help keep our children safe when on the internet.

The filtering system is to prevent students from accessing illegal, inappropriate, or harmful content online. It works by identifying and blocking specific websites, images, text, and videos before they can be viewed.

The monitoring system keeps a track of what students are doing online and to identifies concerning activities, like bullying. This done through automated software that records activity and generates alerts.

Schools have a statutory responsibility to keep children safe online and offline, which includes having appropriate filtering and monitoring systems.

Road Safety

Children need help to learn how to cross the road safely. At school, your child will be taught about how to stay safe on the road by using the Green Cross Code—

Think, Stop, Look, Listen, Walk across the road, looking and listening.



You can help by making sure they hold your hand when walking to school. Older children learn how to assess risk, judge speed and understand consequences especially when walking to school.

Keeping children safe online

For younger children, it's best to use technology together and use that time to discuss what to do if something unusual or scary pops up. As they get older, they will need more independence, but keep those conversations about online safety going. Remind them to tell someone if they need help, are worried or something makes them feel uncomfortable.

Parental controls are designed to help protect children when they go online. Childnet would recommend putting parental controls on the home Wi-Fi and all devices that your children might use. Key features to look out for are content restrictions (to block things like pornography), in-app purchases and time limits.

There are companies who will charge money to provide parental controls, but most Wi-Fi services, devices and apps have parental controls that you can use for free. Internet Matters has step-by-step guides on how to put many of these in place.

Whilst parental controls will reduce the chances of your child seeing something they're not ready for, inappropriate content can still get through. Supervise younger children and keep talking about their online lives. It is also a good idea to test the parental controls yourself and adapt them as your children get older.

If you have any worries about how to install parental controls please contact your internet provider

Roblox

For children, one of the most persistent avenues for predatory behaviour has been online video games. These are spaces where young users gather, communicate, and interact, often with limited verification or oversight.



Roblox, a platform widely associated with younger players, is now beginning to address this by introducing facial analysis age checks and optional ID verification for users over 13. These real-world verification measures are designed to confirm a user's age more accurately and to restrict interactions that could place children at risk. In practice, they signal an important shift in how major platforms are starting to manage online safety and respond to the expectations set out in the Bill.

You can read more about these checks on the SWGfL website:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/roblox-announces-facial-age-checks-for-chat-features/>

Smart Phone campaign

Smartphones weren't designed with kids in mind – but they've reshaped childhood almost overnight. In the UK, 89% of 12-year-olds now own one, and so do a quarter of children aged 5 to 7.



Instead of growing up slowly, children are being pulled into a digital world built to keep them hooked.

Children growing up in the smartphone era spend less time outdoors, less time playing, less time reading, less time moving and more time scrolling, alone.

Smartphones mean explicit, violent, and extreme content is only ever a few clicks away, often served up by algorithms when kids aren't looking for it. Once children see these things, they can never be unseen.

The blue light from screens disrupts melatonin, making it harder to fall asleep, while endless scrolling and late-night notifications keep kids wired when they should be resting.

Arguments and fallouts used to end at the school gate. Now they follow kids home, lingering on their screens day and night – with no safe space to switch off, process or recover.

SmartPhone Free Childhood say: maybe we can pause. Maybe if we work together we can reset – and give our kids something better.

Parent Pact – a collective agreement to delay getting our kids smartphones until at least 14, and social media 16. [Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

The Safeguarding Team at Berridge

If you have a concern about a child's welfare or safety please speak to one of our

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs):

Mr Tee - Headteacher

Mrs Maltby - Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Aldridge - Assistant Headteacher/Safeguarding Lead

Ms Phillips - Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Lewis-Gordon- Learning mentor

Mrs Qudus - Parent support

Ms Hafeez - Parent support

A copy of the schools safeguarding policy is available on the school website:

[Safeguarding | Berridge](#)

[Primary School](#)

Are you concerned about a child?

Report any concerns about a child's safety or welfare by contacting the Multi Agency

Children's Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on :0115 8764800 Mon-Fri: 8.30am – 4.50pm

If you believe a child is in immediate danger call the police immediately on 999.

