

Safeguarding Newsletter

Summer Term 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Summer 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. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and everyone has a role to play. It's important that home and school work together to do this.

DSLs at Berridge

At Berridge Primary School, we are committed to children's safety. If you have any concerns about a child's welfare, please ask to see one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs):



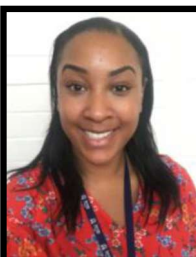
Mrs
Aldridge



Miss
Davis



Mrs
Hafeez



Mrs Lewis-
Gordon



Mrs
Maltby



Ms
Phillips



Mrs
Qudus

A copy of the school's 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
or to report a crime, call 101.

Online Gaming

Games can be typically split into different types:

- simple, short games like Candy Crush or Angry Birds
- creative games, solving puzzles or building worlds such as Minecraft
- games that need strategy and skill to play, like chess
- adventure games that explore different worlds and conflicts such as Fortnite or Call of Duty.

Many games can have other features, like the ability to interact and communicate with others. As well as interacting, players can share content, purchase in-game items, create their own games within the game and so much more.

Children can play games on consoles, apps or websites, mobiles, tablets, PCs, or through smart speakers and virtual reality headsets. They can also chat to other players using messaging platforms for gamers, or watch livestreams of well-known gamers.

Tips for keeping children safe when online gaming:

- Check the game's content and age rating
- Change settings
- Talk to your child regularly
- Make a family agreement
- Be around and monitor where your child is playing online

Deciding if a game is appropriate

- Check the content of the game and any chat function

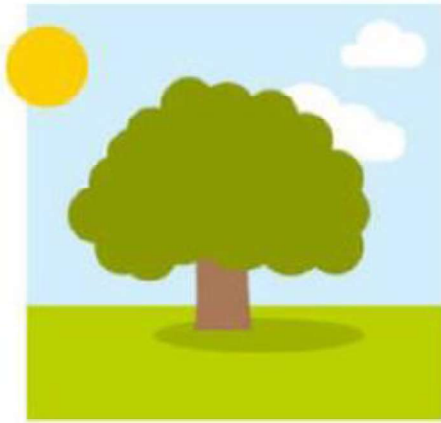
Always check the PEGI age rating to help you decide to allow your child to download or play a game

Game	PEGI age rating
Roblox 	PEGI 7 (but can be 12-16 based on user generated content)
Fortnite 	PEGI 12
Minecraft 	PEGI 7
Call of Duty 	PEGI 16
Grand Theft Auto 	PEGI 18
EA Sports FC 	PEGI 3

- Consider who your child could have contact with when using the game
Many games have a private chat function and can increase the risk of children being contacted by someone they don't know.
- Does the game affect your child's behaviour?
- Does the game have in-app purchasing?
You should consider turning off in-app purchases or set a spending limit on the device or the app.

Sun Safety

How to enjoy the sun safely:



Seek Shade

Take a break under trees or umbrellas, especially in the middle of the day when the sun is strongest.



Cover up

Wear a top that covers your shoulders, a wide-brimmed hat and UV protection sunglasses.



Apply sunscreen

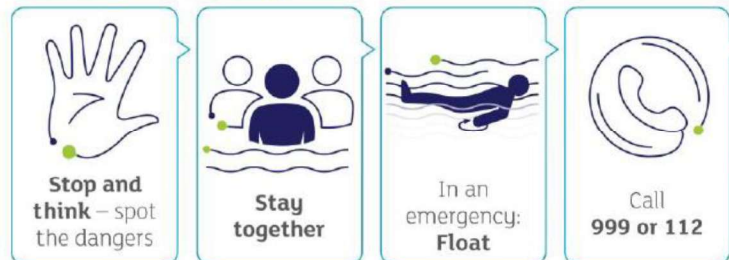
Pick one with at least SPF 30 and 4 or 5 stars.

Use it generously and regularly.

Water Safety

During the summer months it is likely that many children will be visiting the beach or swimming pools. It would be helpful to talk through with your child how they can stay safe in and near water.

Water Safety Code



Stop and think – spot the dangers

- It can be very cold and it can be deep
- There may be hidden currents
- There may be hidden rubbish and it may be polluted and could make you ill

Stay together

- Go to the water with a friend or a family member
- Children should only go near water with an adult

Float

- If you fall into water, float until you can control your breathing. Then call for help or swim to safety.

Call 999

- If you see someone in difficulty, dial 999 ask for the Fire Service at inland sites and the Coastguard at the beach.

Keeping safe when playing outside

Ask you child how they can keep themselves safe

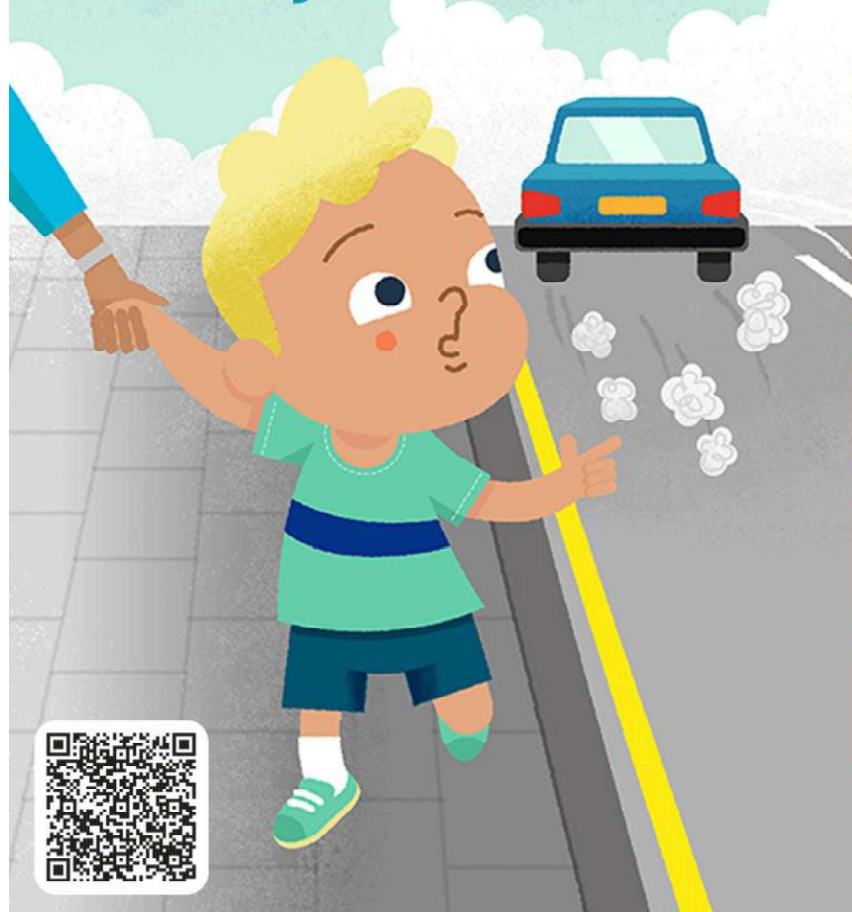
- Help them learn about their local environment and acquire the skills to keep themselves safe
- Talk to them about the dangers of being distracted when out and about by music, phones, gadgets etc. and not being able to hear traffic
- Ask them about the places they might go, where to avoid and why, and what to do if they're worried when out on their own.
- Remind them not to climb on barriers and fences as they are there to protect them from serious injury and accidents and obey 'Danger' signs.
- Agree a time they should be home
- Check if they have their phone and do they know who to contact in an emergency.
- Check that they know their home address and a number to call to speak to a trusted adult.

Road Safety

Parents and carers are a child's best road safety teacher. Why? Because basic road safety is best taught on the street when children are out with their parents/carers.

They will follow your example good or bad, so they need to be informed from an early age of the dangers of the road.

When you cross the road remember:



THINK

Find the safest place to cross. Where possible, use a pedestrian crossing.

STOP

Stand on the pavement near the kerb and make sure that you can see the traffic.

LOOK AND LISTEN

Look all around you for traffic and be sure to listen carefully for things you can't see.

WAIT

Wait until it's safe to cross. If traffic is coming, let it pass. If you're not sure, don't cross.

LOOK AND LISTEN AGAIN

When it is safe, walk straight across the road. Don't run. Keep looking and listening.



capt.org.uk

[@ChildAccidentPreventionTrust](https://www.facebook.com/ChildAccidentPreventionTrust)

[@capt_charity](https://www.instagram.com/capt_charity)

child accident
prevention trust

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account. While some videos are marked as 'age restricted', this relies on uploader honesty and automated moderation, meaning children and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.



TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and widely shared. While many are harmless, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'salt and ice challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.



EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT

The platform's algorithm often promotes content that attracts high engagement, which can sometimes include videos containing extreme viewpoints, misinformation, or risky behaviour. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, therefore reinforcing the exposure.



CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.



SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos based on what a user has previously watched. While this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage binge-watching and excessive screen time, particularly when Autoplay is enabled. Without an account, users are shown trending videos, which are not always age appropriate.



SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT

YouTube Shorts – short, fast-paced videos – are designed for continuous viewing. This style of content can be highly engaging but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.



Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger, and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside active supervision.



USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Google Family Link allows adults to filter content, monitor usage, and manage younger users' screen time. Supervised Accounts offer a gradual step up from YouTube Kids, enabling children to explore the platform with appropriate safeguards.



CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

If a child in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interaction from strangers.



WATCH TOGETHER

Spending time watching YouTube with the children and young people in your care can help you understand what they enjoy and guide your conversations about content. Tools like Downtime in Family Link can also help limit unsupervised viewing.



Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



See full reference list on our website

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