

Safeguarding Newsletter



Early Help Service

Sometimes as parents we feel that extra support is needed when it comes to our children. The Early Help Service provides this support in a range of different areas, such as behaviour management, parenting, boundary setting, building positive relationships and many more. It is a voluntary service so it is down to you as the parent to agree to a referral and you can discontinue this at any time. If you feel this is something that would be beneficial to your family, please contact your child's College Leader at the Academy and they can provide advice as well as make a referral for you.

Share Aware

NSPCC has teamed up with O2 to start a campaign named Share Aware. This is where parents are given support to help keep their children safe online. One thing they advise is to talk to your children about their online/social media use and make sure they know what is okay to share and what is not.

If you would like more information on the Share Aware Campaign, please visit <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/>

Leaving a child home alone

There are no legal age requirements for leaving a child at home on their own and adults must make this decision based on their child's maturity levels. However, the NSPCC have given the following advice:

- Babies, toddlers and very young children should never be left alone
- Children under the age of 12 are rarely mature enough to cope in an emergency and should not be left at home alone for a long period of time
- Children under the age of 16 should not be left alone overnight
- Parents and carers can be prosecuted for neglect if it is judged that they placed a child at risk by leaving them at home alone
- A child should never be left at home alone if they do not feel comfortable with this, regardless of their age
- If a child has additional needs, these should be considered when leaving them at home alone or with an older sibling
- When leaving a younger child with an older sibling think about what may happen if they were to have a falling out - would they both be safe?

If you would like further advice, please visit, <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/2015/home-alone-parents-leaflet/>

Having a difficult conversation with your child

Sometimes as parents, we need to speak to our children about sensitive subjects, especially around safeguarding. We may have been passed concerns by our child's school or may have our own concerns, this may result in us needing to have an open and honest conversation around anything from substance to sex. If you need guidance on how to do this, please visit <http://parentinfo.org/article/three-tips-for-starting-a-difficult-conversation-with-your-child> where there are tips on how you might do this.

Our children rely on us for support and guidance and sometimes parents need help on how to raise these subjects.

If you would like to contact outside agencies for advice, help or guidance, please contact one of the numbers below.

Contact	Times Available	Telephone Number
First Contact Team (Social Care)	Mon-Thurs: 9am-5.30pm Friday: 9am – 4.30pm	01702 215870
Emergency Duty Team (Social Care)	Out of hours, 365 days a year	0345 606 1212
NSPCC Child Protection Helpline		0808 800 5000
Police		999
ChildLine		0800 1111 (Free)

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child, or if you would like to speak to someone with regards to safeguarding in the Academy, please contact one of the staff members below who are all part of the Safeguarding Team



Miss J Hughes



Mrs S Godfrey



Miss K Sear