



# Derry Hill C of E Primary School

## Safeguarding Update – Autumn Term 2024

### WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

SAY SOMETHING IF YOU SEE SOMETHING

The following members of staff are Designated Safeguarding Leads for Derry Hill Primary School:

- Mrs Roberts (DSL)
- Mr Riley (DDSL)
- Mrs Davis (DDSL)
- Mrs Asfaw (DDSL)

They can be contacted via the school office [admin@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk) or by telephone on 01249 812139.

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For a copy of our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding 2024 Policy, please visit our school website

<https://www.derryhillschool.co.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=14>

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first safeguarding newsletter of a brand-new academic year. In particular, welcome to our new families.

As we start the year, I would like to remind you all that at Derry Hill Primary School, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and our top priority. Everyone who comes in to contact with the children and families who comprise our community has a role to play. Everything that we do has the children at its centre. Their wellbeing, their safety, their achievement, their happiness underpins every decision we make.

Often when safeguarding is mentioned, the immediate thought is about child protection – when a child is suffering harm or is in danger of suffering harm. However, safeguarding is much more complex than this and encompasses a very wide range of areas.

At Derry Hill Primary School we ensure that all of our staff are well trained in all aspects of safeguarding and this training is regularly updated and frequently revisited throughout the year. We also ensure that our curriculum provides the children with age-appropriate opportunities to learn how to keep themselves healthy and safe. With this in mind I will continue to send out safeguarding newsletters throughout the year informing you of any recent safeguarding updates as well as providing you with key information around a range of safeguarding issues. This issue will summarise the DfE document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2024 and also include some parental information and advice.

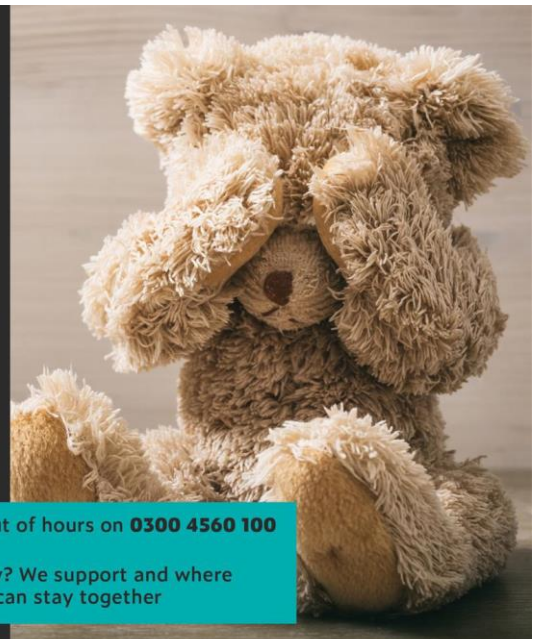
Kind regards, Mrs Roberts

### Safeguarding is EVERYONE'S business!

- Is there anything that worries you about a child that you know or have seen?
- Are there arguments next door, where a child lives, that worry you?
- Do you see anxious looks, injuries, or not see the child you know at all at times?
- Is that child left alone for hours at a time, or seen to be uncared for?
- Are there young ones in your street, out after dark alone, without warm clothes?
- Would you like advice ?

Then please call: MASH on **0300 4560 108** out of hours on **0300 4560 100** For immediate danger dial **999**

Are you worried reporting could split a family? We support and where possible help families make changes so they can stay together



Wiltshire Council

## Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024)

'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024' is a statutory Department for Education document that all schools are required to follow when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It covers many aspects of safeguarding, including different forms of abuse, early help processes, safer-recruitment, how concerns must be reported and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Leads. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Click here for the full document:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66d7301b9084b18b95709f75/Keeping\\_child\\_safe\\_in\\_education\\_2024.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66d7301b9084b18b95709f75/Keeping_child_safe_in_education_2024.pdf)

## Jeffy gets potty trained – Warning



Jeffy is the main character of a popular YouTube puppet show watched by millions of people published by the channel SuperMarioLogan. At first glance, the puppets and other Muppet like characters may seem child friendly, but in reality, the videos include a lot of profanity and trivialise some very serious issues such as suicide and learning disabilities. Here is everything you need to know about the YouTube star.

### Why could Jeffy pose a risk to children?

In the last few years, there has been a boom in what is now classified as adult animation. A lot of these shows and videos have traits that could make you jump to the assumption that they are meant for children, such as goofy cartoon characters or talking animals, but are in reality produced for an 18+ audience. Jeffy videos fall under this category and children unknowingly scrolling through YouTube might click on them thinking the content is appropriate for their age group. The character Jeffy is supposed to be a teenager with some sort of unspecified learning disability. He is foul-mouthed and treats his father and the people around him very badly. This could set a negative example for your child if they try to mimic Jeffy's behaviour. The character also reinforces cruel and insensitive stereotypes surrounding children with disabilities, as he wears a nappy, bicycle helmet and has a pencil up his nose. Children with learning disabilities watching these videos could potentially be very hurt and they could have a negative impact on their self-esteem.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Snapchat is an instant messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to people in their friends list. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures and messages 'disappear' 24 hours after they've been viewed; however, this content isn't as temporary as many believe - with some users saving screenshots or using another device to take a photo of their screen. This year, Snapchat added 'My AI': a customisable chatbot with which people can chat and share secrets, as well as asking for advice and suggestions of places to visit.

## CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recommends - but these 'friends' are merely a username, which could have anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals children's personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

## EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while it's easy for children to pass hours watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat aren't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse - so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

## ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body-image expectations - creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

## VISIBLE LOCATION

Snap Map highlights a device's exact position on a virtual map which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, only you (Ghost Mode) or selected friends. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to ensure friends have reached home safely - but which could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add feature helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

### CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

In 2021, Snapchat rolled out a new safety feature: users can now receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

### DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage your child to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.

### CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up - and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.

### KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child adds, unless they change the settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled (again via settings). It's safest not to add people your child doesn't know in real life - especially since the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchat users to see where your child regularly visits and checks in.

### BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Sources: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/209576036922-What-is-My-AI-on-Snapchat-and-how-do-you-use-it> | <https://www.snap.com/en-GB/how/early-learning-from-social-and-new-media-enhancements> | <https://nccma.com/2022/04/16/snapchat-keeps-location-sharing-challenged/> | <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/70220476844>

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