

Safeguarding Newsletter

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1.WELCOME

Welcome to our latest safeguarding newsletter. As always, if you have any concerns about safeguarding issues in this bulletin you can contact me at Tapton School.

Kath Tabani

3. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition and Centre for Mental Health have published a report on school absence.

The report reviews Government data and examines the evidence base which finds a link between increases in school absence and the rise of mental health difficulties.

The report discusses groups of children facing barriers to attendance such as care experienced children, children experiencing bullying, and children living in poverty.

Recommendations call for the Department for Education to introduce a mental health and wellbeing absence code.

Read the report:

<https://cypmhc.org.uk/publications/not-in-school/#:~:text=Groups%20of%20children%20and%20young%20people%2C%20such%20as,by%20both%20school%20absence%20and%20mental%20health%20problems.>

2.CHILDREN'S EMOTIONS

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has developed a resource to help support self-regulation and executive function in early childhood.

The resource sets out five approaches for early educators to help children with their thoughts, actions, and emotional responses.

The approaches include creating and navigating challenge; teaching self-monitoring and self-awareness; and creating a community of collaborative learners.

Read the news story:

[Teaching children self-awareness of their feelings and actions supports early development](#)

4.CHALLENGING ONLINE TOXCITY

Vodafone have published an article highlighting the prevalence of misogyny online. According to the article "69% of preadolescent boys have encountered misogynistic content online."

The article below discusses how to approach this issue in conversations with adolescent boys:

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/newscentre/smart-living/digital-parenting/how-to-talk-to-your-teenage-sons-about-online-toxicity/>

12. WHATSAPP GROUP WARNING

WhatsApp has an age rating of 13+, which was recently lowered from 16.

However, a BBC investigation has highlighted the issues of how children as young as 9 have been added to malicious group chats.

The article presents some concerning trends, with children in primary schools being exposed to highly unsuitable images and language.

The article goes on to quote the NSPCC, which has been vocal in concerns over the lowering of ages to access the app:

"The NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) has expressed concern the app reduced the age limit before ensuring effective protections were in place".

Richard Collard, the NSPCC's associate head of child safety online policy, said there were practical steps which platforms could take to stop users being added to harmful groups - but warned against a "blanket ban" which punishes children for platforms "that have been too easy to exploit".

In response to such concerns, WhatsApp owner Meta said all users had "options to control who can add them to groups" and the ability to block and report unknown numbers.

Many cases of such malicious content has been focused in the North East. Thousands of parents with children at schools across Tyneside have been sent a warning issued by Northumbria Police.

However, there are concerns that similar issues could become prominent nationwide. It is a timely reminder of the need to be vigilant around the use of this popular app.

Read the article below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy0l4z8n1p9o>



IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING MESSAGE!

New WhatsApp Group:

This group encourages self harm in young people on a points scoring system [redacted]

Please check your child's mobile device and laptop to ensure that they are not added to this group. If you discover that your child is added to this group please remove them from the group and block it.

If you have any further concerns please do not hesitate to contact your child's Pastoral Leader or the Safeguarding Team at school.