

Safeguarding Newsletter

Inside this Issue

- 1 WELCOME
- 2 PRIVACY SETTINGS IN WHATSAPP
- 3 FAKE NEWS
- 4 CHILDLINE ANNUAL REVIEW
- 5 CONSENT
- 6 GAMING AND LOOT BOXES

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WELCOME

to this issue of Tapton School's Safeguarding Newsletter.

In this issue I'll be sharing information about privacy settings in WhatsApp, help to identify fake news, the publication of the Childline annual review, Gaming and loot boxes

Kath Tabani

WhatsApp Privacy settings

Students often report that they are being added to multiple WhatsApp groups without their consent and this leads to feelings of guilt and anxiety about the need to respond to hundreds of messages. WhatsApp have responded with a privacy update that is designed to stop you being added to chats that you don't want to be in. Under the Groups tab (in settings) you can set the 'Who can add me to Groups' to 'everyone', 'my contacts' or 'my contacts except'. Whilst this is a welcome development it might have been better to add a feature that would turn off automatic add to groups and add a feature for you to receive invitations that you would have the option to accept.

FAKE NEWS

Fake news has been in the news a lot recently. The BBC have produced a useful video for children to help them to recognise fake news.

It would be a really good conversation starter to help your child stay safe online.

It talks about a number of things they can do to check whether news stories they're seeing or reading is real and true.

- See the video [here ...](#)

CHILDLINE ANNUAL REVIEW

The NSPCC has published the Childline annual review 2018/19. The review looks at what children and young people tell Childline during counselling sessions and how Childline is supporting them both online and over the phone. Findings include: in 2018/19 Childline provided more than 250,000 counselling sessions, over 109,000 of which were about mental and emotional health and wellbeing issues and 4,500 were about child sexual exploitation.

Read the news story: [here](#)

Read the report: [here](#)

CONSENT

As the holidays draw closer, the party season is in full swing. Many young people will be attending events for the first time, some of which may be unsupervised by adults. Alcohol maybe around, and perhaps street drugs like cannabis, which will impair judgement. It is into this mix that an awareness of consent and risk is really important.

At parties where there are mixed age students, the legality of sexual behaviour is even more important. Although the age of sexual consent in the UK is 16, whether straight, gay or bisexual; 16 and 17 year olds are also protected from sexual exploitation, including sexual activity with people in a position of trust.

As a parent it may not seem obvious that talking to your teenager about consent is necessary, but there are many reasons why it's important to make sure they understand what consent means so that they don't find themselves in a situation they don't want to be in.

The website Family Lives gives some excellent advice about how to talk to your young people. You can find it [here](#)

GAMBLING

Gaming and loot boxes

11 things parents and carers should know about loot boxes

It's been in the news frequently recently, yet there are still a lot of people (particularly parents) who don't know what loot boxes are.

The UK Safer Internet Centre (SIC) has written this article to lay out all of the key information about loot boxes, what they mean for young people and their online safety, and what you can do to encourage safe and responsible usage.

Read the full article [here](#)

Focus on: Button battery safety

These tiny, button-shaped batteries are found in a range of gadgets and household items year-round. But in the lead up to Christmas, the risk of a child getting hold of them, and potentially ingesting them, escalates. Novelty items such as flashing and musical Santa hats, Christmas cards, fake tea lights (flameless candles) and decorations all flood the market and make their way into our homes. Unfortunately, these just the kind of items that children adore playing with.

Button batteries are also found in many children's toys and books. But while batteries in children's products are covered by safety regulations (they are required to have a screwed-down cover) novelty items of the sort found Christmas aren't, and so may pose a bigger risk to children:



If a button battery is swallowed and gets stuck in the throat or gullet, the electrical charge from a button battery creates caustic soda inside the body. This can burn a hole through the throat and can lead to serious internal bleeding and death.

Remember, for toys, batteries should either be enclosed by a screw and a secure compartment or need two independent or simultaneous movements to open the battery compartment. But remember that older children may still be able to open secure battery compartments.