

# KSCS Year 7 and 8 Parent Safeguarding Summer 2023 Newsletter

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Your children are growing up fast and they may almost be coming to the end of their first or second year with us at Ken Stimpson School. Being a parent can be really challenging as our children become teenagers. The world is moving so fast, with so much technology available to children are we really prepared and equipped to help our children grow and develop into good citizens.

We plan to produce a safeguarding newsletter each term to highlight some of the areas we think will help you understand and protect your child as they go through the various stages of their life and hope this gives you the extra tools and advice in keeping your children safe from hidden dangers.

## Summer fun – But do you know where your child is?

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We want to give our children independence and be able to trust them. We remember being teenagers ourselves and going out with our friends, meeting up in parks, or in the city centre, going to the cinema. Children want to be around their friends and as parents we want to trust our children.

Students in Year 7 and 8 are at a vulnerable stage in their lives, they may think they are older than they are, they may think us as parents are too old to really understand them and so the game of tug of war begins.



### What can you do to monitor your child?

- Consider a location tracker on their phone so from time to time you can check in on them?
- Ask where they are going, consider risky places such as the skate park where young adults are known to gather and get involved in in an antisocial behaviour, smoking, drinking etc.
- If going into town, who are they meeting? Do you know them? What are they going to be doing?

## Mobile Phones

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Mobile phones are our biggest challenge, every child has one and it appears the age in which we give our children a phone seems to be getting younger. We tell ourselves its, so we know where they are when they go out, it's a way for them to call us if they are in trouble. But with internet access, snapchat, Tik Tok, WhatsApp just to name a few, do you know who your child is talking to.

In this modern age, children are exposed to technology from a very young age. Children use the internet all the time, and they may be prone to many dangers and risks unknowingly.

There may be a lot of threats that children have to face while using these social media applications. Cyberbullying, threats from predators, personal hacking information maybe some of the dangers of using social media.

As educators and parents, we need to make sure our children are aware of the potential dangers of using social media and the internet.

### Here are some of the most dangerous Apps to be aware of



#### 1. Instagram

Instagram is a photo-sharing app that is a famous platform among youths. Children have signed up for this application as well. Facebook owns Instagram. Instagram can be dangerous for underage children. The minimum age to use Instagram is 13 and above. Strangers can follow your child's public profile and can misuse the pictures.

## 2. Snapchat



Snapchat app needs no introduction Snapchat is a dangerous app to use because the message will disappear automatically. No one can control or monitor what happens in this app. There is a high chance of viewing adult content via snap. Also, Snapchat accounts can be faked as it doesn't require a name to get started with.

## 3. Omegle



Omegle is a free chat and video communication platform that lets two parties communicate without creating an account. The service randomly pairs two people with names assigned "You", creating a session to communicate.

This app has caught the attention of many people, mostly parents worrying about their children, because this is the perfect spot for the predators who are after unsuspecting Children.

## 4. Tiktok



TikTok is a social networking service, because people use short videos to cover various topics and get viral, users may get exposed to adult content in the quest to have many views.

Because this app has no effective privacy settings, so anyone who is a stranger can message your child. Although the minimum age to use this particular app is 13, TikTok uses no verification methods to confirm so.

## 4. Discord



Discord users should be at least 13 due to its open chat. Because it's all user-generated, there's the potential for plenty of inappropriate content, like swearing and graphic language and images. This site is difficult to control and is often used for nude images and predator risk for young users.

### What can you do to minimise the risk?

While there are many parental control apps to choose from, the standard choice is **Google Family Link**. Free to use, Google Family Link works with both Apple and Android devices.

<https://families.google/familylink/> other useful resources are:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/>

<https://www.premier-education.com/news/the-parents-guide-to-mobile-phone-health-safety-for-kids/>

Have an evening cut off time, so no phones at bedtime.

When having family meals, no phones at the table.

These are little changes but forces you child to detach from their phones for a period of time.

## Finally

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We hope you have found this useful, we are here to help, if you are worried about your child or another child in school, please talk to anyone in the safeguarding team or your Head of Year/Student Support Officer.

You can email us directly on [safeguarding@kscs.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@kscs.org.uk).

Finally, we hope you have a good summer term and a safe and enjoyable summer break.

Regards

**KSCS Safeguarding Team**