

# SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1 2024-2025



## SPOTLIGHT ON... ROAD SAFETY

As the weather gets better and the days get brighter, we know that more and more of our pupils will be walking, cycling and scooting to school. Here are a few tips for staying safe on our roads:

### General Road Safety:

- **Wear reflective clothing:** If you are walking or cycling at night or in low light conditions, wear reflective clothing so that you are easy to spot!
- **Stay alert:** Always be aware of your surroundings and avoid distractions.
- **Use designated lanes or paths:** If available, use designated lanes or paths for walking or cycling to separate you from cars.

### Walking

- **If there is a crossing available, use this as a space to cross the road.**
- **Follow the green cross code:** think, stop, look, listen, wait, look and listen again and then cross.

### Cycling and scooting

- **Wear a helmet:** If you are cycling or scooting, it is important to wear a properly fitted helmet to protect your head in the event of a crash or fall.
- **Keep your bike or scooter in good order:** Make sure your bike or scooter is in good working order, with properly inflated tires and functioning brakes, and that your shoes and clothing are suitable for the activity you are doing.
- **Keep your distance from parked cars:** Keep at least a metre away from parked vehicles, in case the door opens suddenly.
- **Use lights after dark:** On a bike, use white at the front and red at the rear.



## HOMOPHOBIC, BIPHOBIC AND TRANSPHOBIC LANGUAGE

Homophobic language means terms of abuse that are often used towards LGBTQ+ or those thought to be LGBTQ+.

A Stonewall survey across many schools found the most common form of homophobic language heard in schools is 'that's so gay' and 'you're so gay'. 99% of gay young people report hearing the casual use of these phrases in school. These comments are sometimes directed towards people who are actually, or who are perceived to be, gay. However, they are most often used to mean that something is bad or rubbish, with no conscious link to sexual orientation at all. Whilst often dismissed as banter, the unchallenged use of 'gay' to mean bad or rubbish has a profoundly negative effect on gay young people's self-esteem. It also affects pupils who have gay friends, family or loved ones.

The Stonewall survey also found that nearly half of LGBT+ pupils, including 64% of trans pupils, are bullied for being LGBTQ+ in Britain's schools. As a school, we are committed to ensuring that we celebrate diversity and promote acceptance and will always challenge any homophobic, biphobic or transphobic views. Staff at ARH have had training about how to challenge bullying and the children know that bullying behaviours, including homophobic, biphobic and transphobic language, will not be tolerated. Parents and carers will always be informed if their child uses such language. We also tackle these views through our P.S.H.E. curriculum, 'No Outsiders' scheme and assemblies as well as our LGBTQIA+ days.

## Online Safety

### **Steps to take to help your child stay safe online:**

- **Have an ongoing conversation:** Continue to talk about the apps, games and sites they like to use, and what they like and don't like and any concerns about being online. Discuss with them when to unfollow, block or report. For help starting this conversation, click [here](#).
- **Make sure they know where to go for support:** Remind your child they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset. Remind them that they won't be in trouble and that you are there to help. For a breakdown of report services, click [here](#).

### **Manipulative Marketing in Mobile Games - Better Internet for Kids**

Children are increasingly becoming a focus of the online games industry. Many games are actually play-to-play even whilst claiming to be free. For most of these apps, the download is free but most of the gameplay is locked. Online gaming firms use the 'free' label to draw in players. Money making tactics such as these, can be hard to detect even for adults. Their use of bright colours, distracting music and other methods can be highly persuasive in gaining players. Better Internet for Kids has crafted a learning module designed to explore digital marketing tactics. You will learn why companies use these tactics and how they can impact your child and their rights. You will also learn how you can support your child to spot and avoid these issues, as well as where you can seek help and support. If interested, please click [here](#).

### **WhatsApp**

More and more children are using WhatsApp as a way of communicating with their family and friends. The age for WhatsApp is 13+. The NSPCC has produced an interesting read – [Is WhatsApp safe for my child?](#)

### **Snapchat**

We have become aware that a large number of pupils in our school are using Snapchat. Children may not always know the people in the groups they are added to, and parents and carers should be aware of the dangers of their children participating in these groups. They may be giving away important information believing they are talking to a friend.

We would like to remind you that the age restriction on Snapchat is at 13+ due to the private and unpredictable nature of the app. Some of the features to be aware of are 'my eyes only' albums with private photos, disappearing messages where photos / content can appear for a limited time and Snap Maps that show a user's position on a map in real time.