

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

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SPOTLIGHT ON... DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination is “treating someone unfairly because of who they are.” (Citizens Advice, 2022). This means that a person is being treated differently or is put at a disadvantage because of someone else’s opinions or judgements of them. By law, there are 9 characteristics that are protected from discrimination under the Equality Act 2010:

- Age
- Disability
- Religion/Belief
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage/Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy/Maternity
- Race/Ethnicity
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

If someone is targeted or treated unfairly because of one or more of these characteristics, then they are being unlawfully discriminated against. This also includes someone being treated differently because another person thinks that they belong to a group with a protected characteristic, whether it’s true or not. At ARH, we celebrate diversity and teach the importance of this to the pupils. We do not tolerate discrimination in any form and it will always be challenged. When children use discriminatory language, we always follow this up with the pupil and the parent or carer and educate the pupil on why this language is not acceptable.



CONSENT

Consent means giving someone a choice about touch or actions and respecting their answer. With children, we often use the language "asking for permission." At this age, we want to lay the foundation for setting boundaries, making decisions about their bodies, asking for permission, and responding appropriately when someone says no to them. Besides consent, children need to learn that they can set boundaries and limits on when and how their bodies are touched and by whom. Conversations around consent should be ongoing. Here’s how you can incorporate consent into everyday conversations with your child. Ways to ask your child for consent:

“Do you want a hug goodbye today? We could also wave or high five.”

“Can I sit beside you while we read this book?”

Ways to model consent:

“Do you need a break from tickling, or are tickles still okay with you?”

“It's OK if you don't want a goodnight hug.”

Ways to teach your child to ask for consent with other children:

“Do you want to hold hands when we walk to lunch?”

“Can I sit next to you on the bus?”

ONLINE SAFETY

Roblox

Roblox, the popular minecraft 'style' game has announced new parental controls. The website has previously been accused of possessing weak child protection tools. The new features have been adopted to allow parents to take control of their children's game time more easily. You can block people who are communicating with your children and see more about how your child is using the programme. You can read about the changes [here](#).

Watching and Browsing Online - Internet Matters

According to Ofcom, 90% of children are watching online videos and browsing the internet regularly. Children may love to stream videos and look up information as it's a fun way to learn and relax but guidance is important as there is a lot of inappropriate content and dangerous material. To help, Internet Matters have published a guide in setting digital boundaries for children. [Here](#), you'll find practical tips on managing content access, the use of safety controls, advice on setting boundaries and ways to educate children on how to stay secure online.

Behind the Screen - Childline

There is a new concern about the sexually coerced extortion of boys and young men which is highlighted in Childline's new 'Behind the Screen' campaign. In particular, it seeks to address the extortion of nudes from this group via blackmail, in relation to nudes exchanged and then saved by the extorter. All young people should be able to feel safe to seek support for whatever afflicts them. The campaign has specifically been designed for boys and young men to let them know it's ok to reach out for help to Childline. They have produced a supporting guide to accompany their 'Behind the Screen' campaign [here](#).

The Hidden Dangers of scanning QR Codes - Action Fraud and Sky News

Cyber criminals are increasingly using QR technology to direct people to malicious websites designed to steal people's personal and financial information.

QR codes have become a convenient part of everyday life but they also carry hidden risks. A recent Sky News investigation revealed that organised crime groups are using QR code stickers across UK streets, including near schools, to promote illegal online cannabis delivery services. You can read more [here](#).

Action Fraud warns that criminals are also using fake QR codes to trick people into giving away personal or financial information. Some replace legitimate QR codes in car parks with scam versions, while others send malicious codes via email in phishing attacks known as 'quishing'. Only scan QR codes from trusted sources, avoid using third-party scanning apps, and double-check links before following them. Read more [here](#).