

# SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2 2025-2026



## SPOTLIGHT ON... DOMESTIC ABUSE AND VIOLENCE

Christmas can be a wonderful time of year but for many, it can increase the risk of domestic abuse and violence. If you're experiencing domestic abuse, please remember that you're not alone—and help is available. Domestic abuse isn't just physical violence; it can also include emotional, psychological, financial, and coercive control—all of which can severely affect both adults and children in the family. For trusted, confidential advice, you can contact child-focused helplines such as [NSPCC](#), [YoungMinds](#), or [Childline](#). These organisations offer guidance on safeguarding your children, planning safety at home, and how to support your family through the crisis.

As parents and carers, you also play a vital role in protecting other children who may be affected by domestic abuse around them. Trust your instincts—raising concerns early is essential. You can speak confidentially to a member of the school's Safeguarding Team or contact children's social care for advice, and in urgent cases, the police. By working together, families and schools can help ensure that all children feel protected, heard, and supported.

If you would like to speak to someone in confidence about domestic abuse, call the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Domestic Abuse Helpline on: 0808 80 200 28 or click [here](#).

### Local support:

[Free from Violence and Abuse \(FREEVA\)](#)

[LCC Housing help for people affected by domestic abuse](#)

You can find National Support and more information on the [school website](#).



## TOP TIPS FOR BUYING SAFE PRESENTS

- **Check for Safety Marks:** Look for the CE or UKCA mark on toys, which shows they meet safety standards.
- **Age-Appropriate Toys:** Always follow the age recommendations on the packaging—small parts can pose choking hazards for younger children.
- **Avoid Sharp Edges and Loose Parts:** Inspect toys for sharp edges, detachable small pieces, or poorly secured batteries.
- **Be Cautious with Electrical Items:** If buying gadgets, ensure they come from reputable retailers and include proper safety instructions.
- **Watch Out for Counterfeits:** Cheap online deals can be tempting, but counterfeit toys may not meet safety standards—buy from trusted sellers.
- **Supervise Use:** Even safe toys can become dangerous if misused, so supervise play, especially with new or complex items.

You can read more from the Child Accident Prevention Trust [here](#).



## USEFUL CONTACTS

<https://livesafe.org.uk/>

Live Safe is a space for information and support on staying safe in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

## LCC FAMILY HUB

LCC's Family Hubs have been established to support families, children and young people across Leicestershire. Our local hub is at: [Beaumont Leys and Stocking Farm](#)  
20 Home Farm Walk, Leicester, LE4 0RW

[0116 454 6660](tel:01164546660)

## Online Safety

### **The Impact of News on Children - Internet Matters**

Children today are growing up in a world that feels more uncertain than ever. News stories—both online and on TV—often focus on serious or worrying topics, and this can feel overwhelming. On the internet, this trend is even stronger, with headlines designed to grab attention and sometimes stir up fear or controversy. Added to this is the rise of artificial intelligence (AI), which means that some news can look real but actually be fake. For younger children, who are still learning to think critically, this can be very confusing and even upsetting.

Confusion about what is true and what isn't can affect children's wellbeing. That's why it's important to help them understand how to spot reliable information and talk openly about what they see online. **Internet Matters** has created a helpful guide for parents and carers on supporting children to navigate this tricky online space. You can read more [here](#).

### **Games for Christmas**

Many of us will be buying computer games for our children this Christmas. Here are some top tips for ensuring safe play for your children:

- **Set Up Parental Controls** - Use the game's built-in parental controls to manage chat settings, restrict who can contact your child, and block inappropriate content. Roblox, for example, allows you to limit interactions and enable account restrictions for younger players.
- **Check Age Ratings** - Make sure the game is suitable for your child's age.
- **Talk About Online Friends** - Explain that not everyone online is who they say they are. Encourage your child to only interact with people they know in real life and never share personal information.
- **Monitor Play and Spending** - Many games include in-app purchases. Set spending limits or disable purchases to avoid unexpected costs.
- **Stay Involved** - Play the game with your child or ask them to show you what they enjoy. This helps you understand the platform and spot any concerns early.

