



"Helping everyone to stay safe at Notre Dame"

## Safeguarding bulletin for staff and parents/carers.

July 2024

I am sure all our community is looking forward to a deserved break. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families and staff a fantastic summer.

**Please remember Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September is a staff training day. Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September is a partial return for all new Year 7 students and Y12 external students (not at ND during Y11) and all year groups return on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.**

The bulletin begins with safeguarding advice regarding unorganised open water swimming particularly at reservoirs and rivers. This year has already seen the tragic loss of life of a 13 year old boy in Keighley due to a drowning incident. We have also shared safety advice on the dangers of open water swimming with students in form time this week

Also, we have been asked to share advice regarding children (and adults) behaving dangerously on railway lines and at railway crossings and there is safety material related to these incidents attached with this bulletin. Please note the **FREE** 15 minute safety video which has been shared with students in form time and available for you to watch through the link below (just enter your email address when prompted). Over 21 million students, parents and teachers from across the UK have already watched these videos which has led to a significant decrease in the number of fatalities and injuries through watching the rail safety videos. **Remember the rail network is all around us including rail depots and sidings which are extremely dangerous places for young people to play on.**

**[Network Rail secondary school safety talk – Learn Live \(learnliveuk.com\)](https://www.learnliveuk.com)**.

The long holiday will see students spending more time unsupervised online and this increase the potential for safeguarding issues to develop. The bulletin contains some useful parental guides on the following areas.

- Ten top tips for parents in keeping children safe online
- A reminder of the advice previously sent out by the National Crime Agency regarding financially motivated sexual extortion (a type of online blackmail often known in the media

as 'sextortion'). Children and young people worldwide are being targeted. (the letter sent previously is included again)

This is also a holiday where children have lots of fantastic opportunities to take part in summer clubs, expeditions etc. I have included near the end of the bulletin NSPCC advice for parents on how to check these organisations have appropriate safeguarding systems in place

As usual this bulletin also contains contact information/links to useful services such as the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub and the NSPCC should you need advice/guidance during the half term break. At the end of the bulletin it also includes again the Safeguarding team at Notre Dame with all their relevant contact details.

Kind regards,

Mr Scriven (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

# Water safety warning

During the school holidays, and in particular in hot weather, increasing numbers of children put themselves at risk of drowning.

There are many dangers of swimming in lakes and reservoirs and unfortunately South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue attends dozens of water related incidents each year. Most are flooding or animal related, but others involve rescuing people from open water- particularly during hot weather.

Rivers and lakes pose many dangers. River flows can be unpredictable and water is often deeper, colder and faster than expected.

Head of community safety Trevor Bernard, said: "It can be tempting to cool off in the summer months, but stick to a swimming pool. Hundreds of people drown each year in the UK and places like rivers, lakes or flooded quarries are completely unsuitable for swimming as they hide a number of hidden dangers."

Over **400 people die in the water every year in the UK**, and firefighters are urging people to follow some basic rules to stay safe.

## The Water Safety Code

### Spot the dangers!

Water may look safe, but it can be dangerous. Learn to spot and keep away from dangers. You may swim well in a warm indoor pool, but that does not mean that you will be able to swim in cold water.

### The dangers of water include:

- it is very cold
- there may be hidden currents
- it can be difficult to get out (steep slimy banks)
- it can be deep
- there may be hidden rubbish, e.g. shopping trolleys, broken glass
- there are no lifeguards
- it is difficult to estimate depth
- it may be polluted and may make you ill

# 10 tips to stay safe online

Not sure what advice to give your child? Our pointers have got you covered.

1. Be careful about talking to people you don't know and trust in real life – anyone can pretend to be a child online. If you do talk to people you don't know, don't give away personal information – such as what street you live on or where you go to school, or share your location with them. Say no to any requests they send you for images or videos of yourself, and stop talking to them
2. Set your profiles to private, to limit what others can see
3. Think carefully about what you share and with who. Once you've shared an image, you've no control over what the other person does with it. Remember, it's **illegal** to take, share or view sexual images of under-18s, full stop
4. Be mindful of your digital footprint. What you post online now could come back to bite you later, like when applying for jobs, college or university
5. If you see something upsetting, or someone bullies you, tell an adult you trust. Report it too
6. When reading news online, ask yourself what the source is, when it was published, and whether it could be a hoax made up. Read beyond the headline too
7. Remember, people try to make their lives look more exciting and interesting online. There's a lot people can do with photo editing to make their photos look better. So don't assume everything you see is a true-to-life representation
8. Watch out for hoaxes and scams, like messages you're meant to forward on or that ask you for payment details or your password
9. Take any content that seems to glamourise gang lifestyles with a very large pinch of salt – it's not as glamorous as it looks. Be wary of schemes promising easy cash for receiving and transferring money too, they're almost definitely criminal activity
10. Watch out for loot boxes or other parts of games where you pay money to take a chance on getting a reward – you can get sucked into spending lots of money on them

Don't feel confident starting a conversation with your child about what they're up to online? Read this advice from the NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety>

## Further information

This factsheet was produced by [Safeguarding Training Centre from The Key](https://www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding):  
[www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding](https://www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding)

- > ['Ban kids from loot box gambling in games', BBC News, 12 September 2019](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-49661870)  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-49661870>
- > [How to spot fake news, Childline](https://www.childline.org.uk/get-involved/articles/how-to-spot-fake-news/)  
<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-involved/articles/how-to-spot-fake-news/>
- > ['Rescue and Reponse county lines project: strategic assessment 2019, Greater London Authority](https://www.london.gov.uk/mopac-publications/rescue-and-response-pan-london-county-lines-service)  
<https://www.london.gov.uk/mopac-publications/rescue-and-response-pan-london-county-lines-service>
- > [Home. Money Mules](https://moneymules.co.uk/)  
<https://moneymules.co.uk/>
- > [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people, GOV.UK – Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, UK Council for Internet Safety](#)

## **LETTER FROM NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY**

Dear parent/guardian,

All schools in the UK have recently been sent information from the National Crime Agency, raising awareness of the recent rise in reporting of financially motivated sexual extortion (a type of online blackmail often known in the media as 'sextortion'). Children and young people worldwide are being targeted.

This type of crime involves an adult offender (often from an organised crime group based overseas) threatening to release nude or semi-nude images and/or videos of a child or young person, unless they pay money, or meet another financial demand, such as purchasing a pre-paid gift card.

Victims of any age and gender can be targets, however a large proportion of cases have involved male victims aged 14-18.

A child or young person is never to blame if they have been a victim. Offenders will have tricked, groomed and/or manipulated them into sharing an image.

Find out more about online blackmail on [CEOP Education's parents and carers website](#).

### **Talking to your child**

It's important to have frequent, open and non-judgemental conversations with your child about relationships, sex and being online to build trust and support them if something goes wrong. Financially motivated sexual extortion should be included in those conversations. Here are some tips about how to approach this:

- **Chat regularly about their life online:** have ongoing conversations with them about their life and time online. Continue to take an interest as they grow, explore new apps and sites together and talk in a balanced way, considering the benefits and the potential harms.
- **Talk about where to find information about relationships and sex:** organisations like [CEOP Education](#), [Childline](#) and [Brook](#) have age- appropriate advice topics such as sexual communication and image sharing. This will help your child to understand what unhealthy relationships look like, such as applying pressure and blackmail; and give them trusted sources of information to explore these topics.

- **Review privacy settings:** talk to your child about the importance of using privacy settings on their accounts to restrict who can contact them. Read CEOP Education's advice on [how to talk your child about their privacy settings](#).
- **Make sure they know where to go for support:** let them know that they can come to you with any concerns and won't be judged. It's also important to make them aware of other trusted adults or sources of support, if they feel they can't talk to you, such as Childline.
- **Make sure they know where to report:** remind your child how you can help them to report an incident to the police or using the CEOP Safety Centre. Let them know that if a nude or semi-nude of them has been shared without their consent, they can take these 3 steps to try and get them removed:
  1. Use [Report Remove](#), a tool from Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation. Your child can use this to remove images that have been shared or might be shared.
  2. Use [Take It Down](#), a tool from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Your child can use this to remove or stop the online sharing of images or videos.
  3. Report directly to the platform or app that the incident has occurred on. For advice on how to report to major social media platforms, visit [Internet Matters](#).

To learn more about what resources are available to help you support your child, visit the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#).

## What can I do if this has happened to my child?

If your child tells you that someone is trying to trick, threaten or blackmail them online:

- **Don't pay, do stop contact and block:** you may be tempted to pay, but there is no guarantee that this will stop the threats. As the offender's motive is to get money, once you have shown you can pay, they will likely ask for more and blackmail may continue. If you have paid, don't panic but don't pay anything more. Help your child to stop all communication with the offender and block them on any accounts that they have been contacted on.
- **Avoid deleting anything:** try not to delete anything that could be used as evidence such as messages, images and bank account details.

- **Report to the police or CEOP:** call 101 or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm to your child. Or you can use the [CEOP Safety Centre](#) to report any online blackmail attempts.

If it has already happened and your child has shared an image and sent money to someone exploiting them:

- **Reassure them that they've done the right thing by telling you:** make sure they know they are not to blame for what has happened and they have done the right thing to ask for your help.

Children and young people's mental health may be negatively impacted by experiences of exploitation; you can [find advice on looking after your child's mental health from the NHS](#).

- **Report to the police or CEOP:** call 101 or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm to your child. Or you can use the [CEOP Safety Centre](#) to report an incident. If your child is 18 and over, call 101 or 999 if they are at risk of immediate harm.
- **Report any images or videos that have been shared:** help your child to remove images that are online or prevent images being shared online by following these three steps:
  1. Use [Report Remove](#), a tool from Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation. Your child can use this to remove images that have been shared or might be shared.
  2. Use [Take It Down](#), a tool from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Your child can use this to remove or stop the online sharing of images or videos.
  3. Report directly to the platform or app that the incident has occurred on. For advice on how to report to major social media platforms, visit [Internet Matters](#).



# How safe is your child's sport club?

5 questions you should be asking

## 2 Does the club have a safeguarding policy?

Your club should have a policy in place to safeguard children. It should be available for you to read, ideally on their website.

## 4 Who can you talk to?

All clubs should have a person responsible for safeguarding. They should let you know who they are and how to contact them if you need to.

# NSPCC



Child Protection  
in Sport Unit

## 1 Have the staff been checked out?

The club should have a safe recruitment process for hiring staff. They should be able to tell you what's involved in this process.

## 3 What happens if there's an accident?

Ask the club if they have a first aider. They should also have your contact details in case of an emergency.

## 5 What training is there?

Your club can tell you what level of training their coaches have. Safeguarding training is also available to anyone working with children.

For more information on how to keep your child safe in sport, visit [thecpsu.org.uk/parents](http://thecpsu.org.uk/parents)



## Where to get further advice and guidance.

Many of these sites have a parent/carer section as well as a section for young people

Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board

<http://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org/sscb>



<https://www.childline.org.uk>



[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)



## Where to get further advice and guidance in School

### **Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is:**

Name: Mr Scriven

Their office is located above main reception

Their telephone number is 0114 2302536  
(Ext. 214)

### **A Designated Safeguarding Deputy is:**

Name: Mr Marsden

Their telephone number is 0114 2302536  
(Ext. 226)

### **A Designated Safeguarding Deputy is:**

Name: Mr Saunders

Their telephone number is 0114 230 2536  
(Ext 217)

### **A Designated Safeguarding Deputy is:**

Name: Mrs Brookes

Their telephone number is 0114 230 2536  
(Ext 219)

### **A Designated Safeguarding Deputy is:**

Name Mr Owczarek (SENCO)

Their telephone number is 0114 230 2536  
(Ext 234)

### **A Designated Safeguarding Deputy is:**

Name: Sean Grant

Their telephone number is 0114 2302536  
(Ext. 259)

### **A Designated Safeguarding Deputy is:**

Name: Mandy Allen

Their telephone number is 0114 2302536  
(Ext. 299)

### **A Designated Safeguarding Deputy is:**

Name: Martyn Birch (Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form)

Their telephone number is 0114 2302536  
(Ext. 202)