



St John Fisher



Safeguarding Newsletter

Autumn 2 2023

WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies straightaway.

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999

Meet the Designated Safeguarding Team:

The Safeguarding Team oversee and co-ordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe. They regularly attend training to ensure their skills and knowledge are up-to-date.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:
Mrs R Butler



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Mrs M Moss
Mr Paul Higgins

School Safeguarding Governor:
Mr Ian Courtney.

All can be contacted via the office or by telephone on:

01865 779676

For a copy of our school's Child Protection Policy, please visit the Safeguarding page on our [school website](#):

www.st-john-fisher.oxon.sch.uk

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Welcome to the second Safeguarding newsletter of the year. Firstly, thank you so much to everyone who has really taken to heart our new push on attendance, which has improved on last years figures already.

With the evenings drawing in and the various autumnal festivals in full swing, I'm sure many minds will soon be turning towards Christmas and the events that come with it. Whilst Christmas can be an exciting time, we know that for some it can also be difficult for many reasons, especially given the current economic situation. We are here to support any families who may find the coming months difficult so please do get in touch if you are worried. We can signpost to local services who may be able to help.

In the following pages you can find information about the pastoral support we can provide in school as well as the regular online safety section, tips for helping children stay safe while out and about in the dark and the Operation Encompass strategy that we are proud to be part of.

Safeguarding Team

IF YOU HAVE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

Please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead, one of the deputies or any member of staff. You can also contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on:

03450507666

Out of Hours service:

0300 300 8123

MASH@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Or make an online referral via the website:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/business/information-providers/multi-agency-safeguarding-hub>

Useful Safeguarding Acronyms and Vocabulary

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead

MASH: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

CP: Child Protection

ciN: Child in Need

CEOP: Child Exploitation and On-Line Protection Centre

KCSIE: Keeping Children Safe in Education

PREVENT: Part of the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn in to extremism

CAMHs: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

SEND: Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

HOW CAN WE SUPPORT AT SCHOOL?



Our whole Safeguarding team, and all staff at school are all here to support the children, and you as families, if there are any issues or concerns that cannot be solved by the class teacher who should always be the first port of call.

Mrs Moss is our Family Links Worker, Learning Mentor and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

She works across the school supporting children and families and helping to reinforce and extend the links between home and school. Mrs Moss has many years experience in these roles and knows exactly who to contact and what procedures to follow in every situation. She knows members of every agency across the Borough and has, and will continue to, support any family with issues at home. Please do not hesitate to get in touch, she can offer support from housing issues to help with benefits claims. In school she also works very closely with children, individually, or in groups, to support their needs and ensure they get the emotional help they need.



Mrs Clark is our SENCO: Although not a DDSL, Mrs Clark is here to support pupils and families, particularly those with any barriers to their learning, whether it be a diagnosed SEND issue or not. She is very knowledgeable and passionate about putting the needs of our children first. Please get in touch with her for any support or advice you need.

Christmas Performances

Please can we ensure that photographs containing children who are not your own, taken during our Christmas Performances are not shared on Social Media, there are children who's parents wish for us to not take photos of them, and the school ensures that this occurs on our own Social Media and Website, can we ask this of all families please

There may be Safeguarding reasons as to why these requests have been made, and your photo could put a child in danger.

We don't ask you not to share images to be miserable, we are trying to protect vulnerable children.



Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

In every force. In every school. For every child.

Our school participates in a national scheme called 'Operation Encompass', which is a joint partnership between Oxfordshire Police and schools. One of the principles of Operation Encompass is that all incidents of domestic abuse are shared with schools, not just those where an offence can be identified.

This system has been established to help schools provide in-house support to children who have been present at, exposed to or involved in any domestic abuse incident. We know that children can be significantly harmed physically and/or emotionally during these situations and that it negatively affects their learning and behaviour. Therefore, as part of the Operation Encompass procedure, and to help mitigate the resulting negative impact, the school receives and email the morning after a child has been witness to or involved in any reported domestic abuse incident. We are then able to use this information to provide the right support to any child and their family as and when it is needed.



INTERNET SAFETY



Reminders of Minimum age requirements for Social Media Sites.

What Parents Need to know about EA Sports FC 24

What's the most prolific partnership in recent football history? Kane and Son? Ronaldo and Benzema? How about EA and FIFA? Their collaboration produced the most popular sports video game series of all time with 325 million copies sold worldwide.

EA Sports FC 24 – the makers' new solo offering – now hopes to emulate FIFA's success. Find out whether it keeps a clean sheet against FIFA's traditional online safety risks with the following handy guide for parents (which can also be found in the online safety tab on our website alongside other similar guides):

Grand Theft Auto – 18

Call of Duty – 16

Fortnite – 12

We are aware of a number of children in school who are playing games which are rated above the age range of primary education. Please be mindful of what children are exposed to on these platforms.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 24

After two decades of holding the official FIFA licence, EA Sports' phenomenally successful football video game series has embarked on its solo run at goal. This season's iteration marks the debut appearance of a new name and branding, but don't let those fool you – EA Sports FC 24 is still a very similar proposition to last year's EA Sports FC 23. Popular features such as Ultimate Team remain a big focus, meaning that potentially costly in-game spending is still among the line-up of risks that parents and carers should be aware of.

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

RECURRING RELEASES

EA Sports FC 24 effectively picks up the FIFA template – meaning that other than we can expect EA Sports FC 25 to hit the shelves, EA's latest versions of the FIFA franchise tend to be minor, but young fans of the game are almost certain to want the new edition in around 12 months' time, so they can keep playing with updated team kits, players and squad lists.

OFFENSIVE VOICE CHAT

EA Sports FC 24 introduces cross-platform play, and EA Sports FC 24 goes a step further with Clubs, Seasons and Ultimate Team cooperative modes across PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X and S, and PC. Their exciting new features offer a much wider audience base, potentially a great level of communication between children and for older online gamers.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In FIFA, Ultimate Team proved to be a profitable avenue for developers Electronic Arts (EA), and is now found in many of their other titles. Players spend in-game currency to unlock better players for their team, but this process can take a frustratingly long time – so young fans may be tempted to skip the grind by paying real-world cash to unlock their coveted star midfielder.

ULTIMATE TEAM SCAMMERS

Since the mode was introduced, Ultimate Team has been a target of scammers who attempt to lure players into buying or selling outside the terms of service from EA and console manufacturers. This shady practice can lead to accounts being banned and in-game items being lost. In some cases, young gamers have also been hoodwinked into handing over their payment details to the fraudsters.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

Just like real-life football, EA Sports FC 24 offers a thrilling, dynamic blend of tactical awareness and skill that is both stimulating and absorbing. Among younger players as they play for the first time, more identifiers of a gaming disorder as they play for the first time more "game" before bedtime or spend practically all weekend playing more matches to earn additional Ultimate Team packs.

ADVICE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

CONTROL SPENDING

If your child enjoys Ultimate Team mode, check that your payment details aren't linked to their account. Bundle of FC Points (the game's currency) start at just £1, so it's really easy to spend big under the radar. You could consider setting your child an in-game allowance, perhaps through a prepaid card, which will help them to realise that online spending has a real-world effect.

DEFEND AGAINST SCAMMERS

EA does contact players via email (although not to ask for usernames or passwords, so watch out for that scam tactic), but never through the game itself – so be wary of incoming messages and consider blocking and reporting suspicious spam. Your child should avoid buying items (in in-game currency) from external sites. It could end with them losing their money and being banned from the game.

AVOID EXTRA TIME

Many parents of young football-orientated gamers worry about their child playing too much EA Sports FC. There's now also a companion mobile app, which can also offer parents a heads-up on their child's progress by struggling to disengage from the game. You could initiate discussions around set hours of play – or take stronger action by releasing the parental controls on their console or phone.

SHOW TOXIC CHAT THE RED CARD

Playing EA Sports FC 24 with friends is highly enjoyable, but if competitive play starts to turn toxic online, it can ruin everyone's fun. This could occasionally occur in all the while chat, or in the game's arena for any warning signs that things may be about to build over. This pose could occur when playing with third-party voice chat with unknown players can be turned off in the game's settings.

CELEBRATE THE VARIETY

Ultimate Team may be the game's "star player", but there's plenty more to do in EA Sports FC 24 – including modes which allow access to all of the game's content in a single play session. This new version of the game includes award-winning team's tactics, making online play forward an important subject to discuss and manage with children.

Get your ultimate team



We are always mindful for the safety of our children near roads and conscious of how vulnerable they can be. At this time of year, with reduced visibility for drivers your child is even more vulnerable near roads. With new bikes and scooters arriving at Christmas for some, the temptation to go out in the evening will be even stronger so I have included some safety tips below so that you can discuss with your child/ren how important it is to be visible when near roads.

These tips emphasise how wearing brightly coloured clothing shows up well in daylight but, as it gets dark, reflective clothing and accessories are far more effective in signalling pedestrians or cyclists to drives. For more information and activities to do with your child(ren) please visit:

<https://www.think.gov.uk/resource/be-bright-be-seen-game/>

**5 top tips on how to
BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN**

- 1** Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
- 2** If you're out and about when it's dark wear reflective items to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
- 3** Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.
- 4** If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
- 5** Of course, 'Being Bright' helps drivers to see you but that won't guarantee that you keep safe. You still need to make sure that you stop and look in all directions for traffic every time you cross.