



# Safeguarding Newsletter

## St Augustine's RC Primary- April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our safeguarding newsletter.

This newsletter focuses on car seat awareness, water safety and information about apps, Netflix and You Tube.

Please remember that if you ever have a safeguarding concern regarding your child, or indeed another child, you can always speak to any member of staff or a member of our school's safeguarding team.

Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Mrs Webb

### WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Designated Safeguarding Lead's below.



Mrs Colbeck Headteacher



Mrs Haworth Mrs Malcolm  
Assistant Headteachers



Mrs Webb Mrs Pound  
Pupil and Family Support

Our Chair of Governors can be contacted via the school office by email [office@st-augustines.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-augustines.lancs.sch.uk) or by telephone on 01282 426938.

### What is the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead at St Augustine's?

The Designated Safeguarding Leads have a crucial role in taking lead responsibility for child protection issues in school.

A DSL is always available during school hours for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns. DSLs are trained to take on this role and that training is updated every two years, with additional training and conferences in between.

Key aspects of the 'Designated Safeguarding Lead' role include:

- ✓ Ensuring that all staff are aware of the processes for raising safeguarding concerns
- ✓ Ensuring all staff understand the signs of child abuse and neglect
- ✓ Referring any concerns to Children's Social Care
- ✓ Monitoring children who are the subject of Child Protection and CiN (Child in Need) Plans
- ✓ Maintaining accurate and secure child protection records
- ✓ Raising awareness of the school's safeguarding policies and procedures and ensuring these are implemented and reviewed regularly

For more information you can also find our Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy on our school website.



Report any concerns if you suspect a child is being abused or is in danger of being abused by contacting the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0300 123 6720

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

# Car Seat Awareness

We have been made aware that there are some children arriving at school in cars without any safety restraint.

## Did you know?

“Seat belts did not become a legal requirement for real passengers until 1987? Even more remarkably the use of children’s car seats wasn’t made a legal requirement until 2006! Since then, all infants from birth until a certain age or height must be in a specially designed car seat.

This is a legal requirement and failure to do so will likely result in you receiving a £500 fine but, of course, the threat of a cash fine pales into insignificance when compared to the realities and outcomes of an accident.”

<https://incarsafetycentre.co.uk/>

## Main points of the law:

1. Height based seats are required to be used REAR FACING for a minimum of 15 months.
2. A suitable\* child car seat must be used until the child reaches a height of 135cms or 12 years old, whichever is reached first. \*suitable = a seat that is intended for the child’s height, weight and the vehicle it is to be used in.

*The purpose of the regulations and the law is to improve levels of safety for children in vehicles. It is our responsibility to ensure our children are protected to the best of our ability.*

## What are the legal requirements for rear-facing car seats?

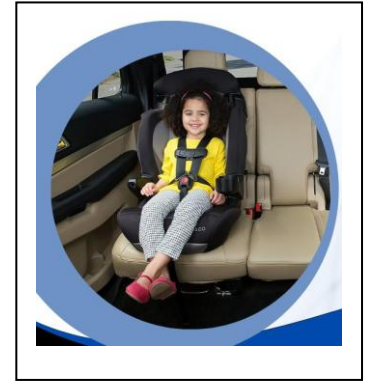
New laws dictate that children must travel in rear-facing car seats until they are 15 months old. Furthermore, you must never fit a rear-facing car seat in the front of your car where there is an active passenger airbag.

## What are the legal requirements for forward-facing car seats?

From 15 months old onwards, it is believed that your child’s neck will be strong enough to more reasonably handle the impact of an accident and, therefore, forward-facing car seats may be used. However, it is recommended that rear-facing seats are used for as long as possible.

## What car seat is legally required for my child?

There are two categories of seats: those that are manufactured to the latest EU standard ECE R129, known as i-Size and are based on a child’s height; and those manufactured under the EU standard ECE R44 which are weight based.



# Water Safety

## Be Alert to Water Safety



As we enter the warmer months ensuring children's safety around open water is crucial, especially given the rising number of drowning incidents in the UK. Recent data reveals a concerning increase in child drownings:

- Between 2019-2023, there were 125 child drowning deaths in England, with numbers
- rising from 20 in 2019-20 to 41 in 2022-23.
- Approximately 40-50 children drown annually in the UK

Schools play a crucial role in educating children about water safety, particularly regarding the dangers of swimming in reservoirs, rivers, and lakes.

Here's the key advice children should be given:

### The Dangers of Open Water

🔴 Cold Water Shock – Teach children that even on hot days, open water can be dangerously cold and cause their body to go into shock, making it hard to breathe or move.

🌊 Strong Currents & Underwater Hazards – Explain how rivers and reservoirs can have unseen currents that pull them under, along with hidden obstacles like rocks and weeds.

⚠️ Steep & Slippery Banks – Many lakes and reservoirs have steep, muddy edges, making it difficult to climb out if they fall in.

### Safer Choices & Responsible Behaviour

- ✓ Where It's Safe to Swim
- ✓ The 'No Swimming' Rule for Reservoirs & Rivers – Explain why these areas are unsafe, even if the water looks calm.
- ✓ Peer Pressure Awareness – Teach children how to say no if friends encourage risky behaviour near open water.

### The 'Float to Live' Technique (from the RNLI)

- If they fall into water, they should fight the instinct to panic and splash.
- Lie back in the water, extend their arms and legs, and try to float.
- Tilt their head back to keep airways open and breathe slowly.
- Call for help or try to reach a safe place once they have calmed down.

### Emergency Actions & First Aid

☎️ Calling 999 – Teach children to call 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard (at sea), Fire Service (inland water), or Ambulance.

🚫 Never Jump in to Save Someone – Instead, shout for help, throw a floating object (like a life ring), or use the 'reach and rescue' technique with a stick or rope.

🏊 Learn Basic Water Survival Skills – Schools should provide swimming lessons if possible, focusing on staying afloat, treading water, and safe exits from deep water.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# NETFLIX

Netflix is a subscription-based streaming service that allows users to watch TV shows and movies on any internet-enabled device that supports the software, such as smart TVs, phones and tablets. The pandemic saw a surge in children consuming on-demand content as many families relaxed their screen-time rules. Netflix's diverse range of programming caters for all age groups – so it's important for parents to recognise the potential risks of children using the service and the measures to help their child enjoy a safe streaming experience.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Netflix produces and curates an extensive catalogue of content that can provide hours of entertainment. If they share the same user account as an adult, this can potentially lead to children accidentally viewing all manner of inappropriate content, including nudity, profanity and extreme violence. This can happen easily on shared accounts, as Netflix cannot establish who's watching.

## BINGE-WATCHING

Netflix allows users to view shows and movies quickly and easily without adverts or interruptions, making excessive screen time a concern. Binge-watching has become more common during the pandemic, due to Netflix's regularly updated content and algorithms which recommend content very similar to what's previously been enjoyed. Marathon viewing sessions can lead to children staying up too late, affecting their mood and concentration the next day.

## SCREEN ADDICTION

From TVs and phones to consoles and tablets, Netflix is available on almost any device with an internet connection – making it extremely difficult to manage children's screen time. The service is now adding games to its mobile app, tempting users to spend even more time on the platform. Screen addiction can distract children from important activities like schoolwork and socialising, and can impact their health by reducing their exercise and sleep.

## HACKING ATTEMPTS

With millions of users worldwide, Netflix is often targeted by hackers who try to steal usernames and passwords to gain access to people's accounts. If successful, they can then steal payment details or try to sell stolen personal data on the dark web, providing other criminals with a profitable opportunity. Netflix also doesn't provide two-factor authentication, making the hackers' task that little bit easier.

## CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Netflix's Teleparty feature became popular during lockdown periods as it allows users from different households (friends and relatives, for example) to synchronise when they watch content. It requires an access link to be sent to the people you wish to invite; the link, however, can also be distributed to people you don't know. A text chat feature enables interaction with the other users in real-time; this represents a risk to children if a stranger gains access to the Teleparty.



## Advice for Parents & Carers

### KEEP ACCOUNTS SECURE

Netflix doesn't use two-factor authentication, so a strong password is vital. Your child's Netflix password should be unique (not one they've used elsewhere) and a minimum of eight characters with a mix of letters, numbers and symbols. Emphasise not to share their login details with anyone and remind them to always log out after using the app – so their account remains inaccessible, even if their device is lost or stolen.



### CHECK MATURITY RATING

Netflix warns about content that includes violence, sex, profanity and nudity. These warnings form part of the show or movie's 'maturity rating'. Users can restrict age ratings to avoid children viewing age-inappropriate content. On their profile, open the Profile and Parental Control settings and choose the maturity level for the shows and movies you want to allow.



### CREATE A KIDS' PROFILE

Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile means your child can only access content which is suitable for children aged up to 12 years. All other content is automatically blocked. This rating can be further restricted via the child's profile settings. Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile will help to prevent your child from viewing age-inappropriate content.



### SET UP PROFILE PINS

Netflix account holders can lock profiles using a four-digit PIN. Doing this can prevent your child from accessing the wrong account and viewing content that isn't appropriate for their age. Try setting a PIN for each account on your Netflix app – ideally avoiding numbers that would be easily guessed, such as dates of birth. Remember not to share these PINs with anyone, including family.



### SWITCH OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a show or movie concludes, Netflix's algorithms select content with similar themes that it thinks your child will enjoy next. This new content starts automatically after a 10-second countdown. Disabling this auto-play feature reduces the possibility of your child being shown something inappropriate and provides a natural break to help prevent them becoming too immersed in Netflix.



### CHECK VIEWING HABITS

Netflix has tools which enable parents and carers to monitor what their child has been watching. Selecting 'Viewing Activity' in each profile's account settings displays a list of what content has been viewed (and when). This can reassure parents that their child is watching age-appropriate content and can open avenues for discussing your child's favourite shows and movies, and why they like them.



### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: [www.help.netflix.com](http://www.help.netflix.com) | [www.about.netflix.com](http://www.about.netflix.com) | [www.nosam.org.uk](http://www.nosam.org.uk)



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# ▶ YOUTUBE ▶

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

### CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

### RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to wrap impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

### CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

### TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm to children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

### SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.



### TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

### MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

### CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by 'preschool' (4 and under), 'younger' (ages 5 to 8) and 'older' (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

### LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you'd like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



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