

2024 Summer Safeguarding Newsletter for Parents and Carers



'Life in all its fullness'



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One of the hardest jobs (if not **the** hardest job) in the world is that of being a parent. Children are not born with manuals and our unique circumstances *can* change from day to day. Navigating life can be challenging.

It is our prayer that your children enjoy a safe summer holiday and that you are able to support them throughout the break.

However, if you need support or advice over the holidays, we hope that this newsletter will help to signpost you to the right help at the right time.



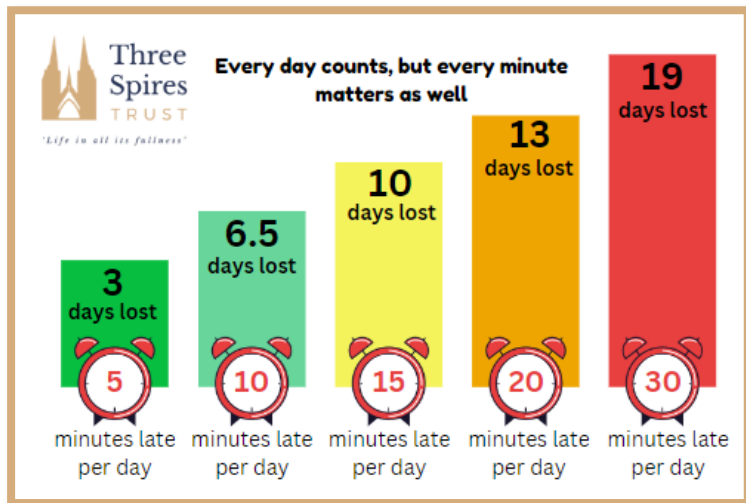
ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Every day
COUNTS!

School success starts
with attendance



Being in school is important, but so is being punctual to school. In school, learning starts as soon as the day starts – when a child is late to school, they miss out on learning, on worship, on maths, on time to connect with their peers and on being part of the team.



Expected attendance

97%

Absence at any stage leads to gaps in your child's learning. This in turn can:

- They fall behind in their work
- Affect their motivation
- Affect their enjoyment of working
- Affect their desire to attend school regularly
- Affect their confidence in school
- Means that they miss out on social life in school and extra curricular opportunities and experience
- Affect their ability to maintain friendship groups

Please note that concerns over your child's attendance may trigger:

- First day response telephone calls home
- Home visits by the attendance team or education welfare service
- Attendance meetings
- Referrals to the local authority
- Penalty notices
- Court proceedings

Nationally, children who have only:

91%

attendance or less will drop at least one GCSE grade across their subjects.

Persistent absence

below 90%

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

As part of their response to the national concerns about absence from school, the DfE has issued new statutory guidance. ‘Working Together to Improve School Attendance’ comes into effect on 19 August 2024, which means that it will be in place upon our return to school after the summer holidays.

The key change for parents and carers is the new **national** approach to prosecuting parents and carers for children’s absence from school. Headteachers and principals will no longer be permitted to authorise a leave of absence for a holiday - there will no longer be an absence code for “authorised holiday”. As such, **holidays from school will be unauthorised**.

The current penalty notice frameworks, which have been administered locally, will be replaced by a National Framework. The penalties are outlined below:



Penalty Notices are changing from 19 August 2024

<p>Per parent, per child Penalty Notice Fines will be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent for a leave of absence.</p> <p>This means that if 4 siblings take a leave of absence during term time, this would result in <u>each parent</u> receiving 4 separate fines .</p>	<p>5 consecutive days of term time leave Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days. This is called irregular attendance.</p> <p>It is important to note that INSET days count, in this instance, as school days and can be included in the 5 or more consecutive days.</p>
<p>First Offence The first time a Penalty Notice for leave of absence, or for irregular attendance, the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.</p>	<p>10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period Penalty Notice Fines may be issued by the Local Authority where there has been 10 sessions (ie 10 half days) of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period. This is called irregular attendance.</p>
<p>Second Offence (within 3 years) The second time a Penalty Notice for leave of absence, or for irregular attendance, the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.</p>	<p>FINES CAN BE ISSUED FOR LEAVES OF ABSENCE AND IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE</p>
<p>Third Offence & any further offences (within 3 years) The third time an offence is committed for term time leave of absence or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued - the case will proceed straight to the Magistrates’ Court. Fines will be up to £2500 per parent, per child. If found guilty in a Magistrates’ Court, can show on a parents’ future DBS certificate as “failure to safeguard a child’s education”.</p>	

As a parent or carer, it is crucial to notice that penalty notices are rising to £160 and that the notices are to be issued per parent and per child. At Three Spires Trust, we want to remind parents and carers that this is not something that is controlled by the school and, importantly, the money from any penalty notices is retained by the local authority.

<p>Typically, absences may be authorised for the following reasons:</p>	<p>Absences will be unauthorised for the reasons which include:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illness • Sporting events at county, regional or national level • Interviews for a new educational setting • Work experience placements • Regulated performances • Medical or dental appointments • Religious observance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family holidays • Shopping days • A birthday • Family days out • Unregulated performances • Arrival at school after registers have closed • A parent’s medical appointment

REQUESTS FOR LEAVES OF ABSENCE MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE – THEY CANNOT BE APPROVED RETROSPECTIVELY

SUMMER HOLIDAY ADVICE

For some, the summer holidays are a time of fun, enjoyment, excitement and adventure. However, for others the holidays can be difficult. Maybe you and your family need routine, perhaps the additional meals are challenging, maybe you are a working parent and it is hard to find childcare, maybe your mental health benefits when your children are in school – there can be lots of reasons that the holidays can be difficult.



**Summer 2024
Kids eat FREE or for
less than £1**

- Tesco Cafe:** Kids eat free with an adult meal purchase of at least 60p
- ASDA Cafe:** Kids eat for £1
- Morrisons Cafe:** One kids meal free with an adult meal purchase of £4.49
- Sainsburys Cafe:** Kids eat for £1 with a purchase of adult hot main - from 11:30am
- IKEA:** Kids eat for 95p from 11am
- Dobbies:** Kids eat free with any adult breakfast or lunch
- Travelodge & Premier Inn:** Up to 2 kids eat free at breakfast with an adult meal purchase
- Bella Italia:** Kids eat for £1 with an adult meal purchase - Mon-Thurs between 4-6pm
- Beekeeper & Brewers Fayre:** 2 kids get a free breakfast with a paying adult meal
- Sizzling Pubs:** Kids eat for £1 Mon-Fri between 3pm-7pm with purchase of an adult meal

* Information correct at time of adding to this newsletter

Don't forget that your local Foodbank, soup kitchens and community pantries will be open over the school summer holidays and will welcome you with open arms. Please do not hesitate to seek help.

Water safety is an area of significant importance – please ensure that your children know not to jump into canals, rivers or lakes.



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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SHARING INTIMATE IMAGES

An intimate image depicts sensitive – often sexual – content, and sharing these photos or videos is commonly known as 'sexting'. As of January 2024, it is a criminal offence to distribute any intimate images shared by a third party without consent, with offenders facing prison time. Naturally, misuse of intimate images can lead to emotional distress and reputational damage.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

Victims of the misuse of intimate images and so-called 'sexortion' (blackmail involving sexual material) often experience significant emotional distress. The threat of having these photos or videos shared publicly can lead to anxiety, depression and a sense of helplessness. This emotional turmoil can affect daily life, academic performance and personal relationships.

DAMAGE TO REPUTATION

Intimate images being made public can severely damage a person's reputation. This can lead to bullying, social ostracisation and long-term impacts on personal and professional relationships. If a blackmailer gets their hands on any intimate images, the fear of reputational damage can also make a victim far more vulnerable to ongoing extortion.

PRIVACY VIOLATIONS

Once intimate images are shared online, it can be difficult to quickly control where they wind up and who else sees them. This loss of privacy can have lifelong repercussions, including identity theft and persistent online harassment.

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

Perpetrators of sextortion may demand money from victims under the threat of releasing their intimate images publicly. This can lead to severe financial problems for victims and their families, compounding their emotional and psychological distress.

LEGAL CONSEQUENCES

If a child or young person creates and/or sends intimate images to others – especially adults – this is considered a form of child abuse under UK law. Having to disclose this type of abuse, although necessary, can be harrowing, leading to further trauma. It's crucial for parents, carers and educators to understand the legal processes and be able to provide proper guidance and support.

TRUST ISSUES

Sharing of intimate images without consent can lead to long-term trust issues. Victims may find it difficult to trust others, impacting future relationships and their ability to form healthy, supportive connections. This erosion of trust can have profound effects on mental health and social wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOSTER A CULTURE OF OPEN COMMUNICATION

It's vital to encourage open communication with children and young people about the dangers of sharing intimate images. Create a safe space where they feel comfortable discussing their online activities and any concerns they may have without fear of judgement. Be sure to respond to any worrying information with an attitude of support and learning.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Digital literacy is incredibly important for children and young people to understand how to protect their privacy online. Teach them about secure online practices, such as using strong passwords, enabling privacy settings and recognising suspicious behaviour. This empowers them to be proactive in terms of their own safety.

EDUCATE CHILDREN ON THE RISKS

Children and young people often want to understand why certain rules are in place. Educate them about the risks of sharing intimate images online, explaining the reasons for monitoring and other security measures. Highlight the potential for misuse, including sextortion, and the long-term consequences that can arise from these actions.

PROVIDE SUPPORT RESOURCES

Ensure that children and young people know where to seek help if they become victims of sextortion or any other online abuse. Help them identify in advance which adults they can turn to and provide them with information about trusted resources like helplines (e.g. Childline) that they can access if they need help.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding and neurodiversity consultant with over 30 years' experience working with children, families and adults in education, local authority and mental health settings in the UK and abroad.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: [what-parents-need-to-know-about-sharing-intimate-images](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/what-parents-need-to-know-about-sharing-intimate-images)

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/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.07.2024

If you are concerned that your child may have sent, or received, an intimate image, please seek advice to help you.

Talking with your child and having open conversations about what they use their technology for will help you to foster a culture of open communication, but having monitoring systems and routines in place will also help. Our children are living in a world that is fast paced – being a step ahead is not always easy!

Children can contact the REPORT REMOVE team for support to have images removed from the internet. Contact Childline directly for more information about this.



Nude image of you online?
We can help take it down.

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A SOCIAL WORKER?



Dame Rachel de Souza
Children's Commissioner for England

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As Children's Commissioner it is my duty to promote and protect the rights of all children, with particular regard to children who are living away from home or receiving social care services. My priority is to listen to children across the country, to hear about their lives and champion their voices.

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The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has listened to young people who have a social worker and understood that they sometimes have lots and lots of questions. She launched "Help at Hand" to give advice and support to those who have a social worker, are working with social services, live away from home and who are care leavers.

If your child (or their advocate) would like to get in touch with Help at Hand, they can make contact for free on 0800 528 0731 or they can send an email to help.team@chjldrenscommissioner.gov.uk

**Our
Commitment
to you**

When you make a commitment,
you create hope. When you keep
a commitment you create trust!

John C. Maxwell

© outshiny

At Three Spires, we are a team – one team working across all of our schools for and on behalf of our children, families and communities. Whilst school staff are on annual leave over the summer break, our central safeguarding team remain available and will represent school at child protection conferences, child in need review meetings, early help meetings and other ongoing matters. They make contact with you to see if you need any wider support as well. This is all part of our commitment to you and your family – and part of us living out our vision of life in all its fullness.

You can contact the team on tstdsl@threespirestrust.org



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Parental Controls & Safety Settings Guide



Created in partnership with online safety experts **Digital Awareness UK**



Vodafone has supported parents and carers for just over ten years with advice and support about Digital Awareness. The work that they do is not network-specific ... it doesn't matter who you use for your mobile phone, their advice will be sound, no matter what.

The Parental Controls and Safety Settings Guide can be downloaded to give you advice about what to do in certain eventualities. It also features an excellent glossary of terms to help you to decode the internet and better understand how to keep your child safe online.

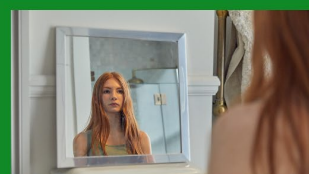
The data below (from the NSPCC website) helps us to realise the importance of these safeguards.



1 in 3 young people have seen something worrying or nasty online.¹



Just under half of young people have been exposed to online pornography.²



In 2020/21 there were over 2,500 Childline counselling sessions about online bullying.³

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MENTAL HEALTH

YOUNGMINDS
The voice for young people's mental health and wellbeing

Parents Helpline: 0808 802 5544
Website: www.youngminds.org.uk

@YoungMindsUK



**GOT A PROBLEM?
NEED ADVICE?**

FEELING LOW WWW.KOOTH.COM

Being abused

Self harm

RELATIONSHIPS

BULLYING

Sexuality: gay, lesbian or just confused

Eating disorder

Award-winning counselling services for young people

KOOTH.COM is a FREE, ANONYMOUS, CONFIDENTIAL website where young people can go for help.

- > Drop-in chats
- > Booked 1:1 sessions
- > Themed message forums and lots more

87% of our users prefer online counselling so visit www.kooth.com

KOOTH.COM
FREE ONLINE SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Fed up? Worried UPSET

Lonely

Stressed?

depressed

Lonely

Worried

UPSET

ChildLine
0800 1111

sad sad sad

confused?

unsure?

SCARED?

Angry

Angry

however you feel, ChildLine is here for you.

Call free day or night on 0800 1111. Or if you're deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, textphone 0800 400 222. ChildLine is a service provided by the NSPCC.

THE MIX
Essential support for under 25s

0808 808 4994

PAPYRUS
PREVENTION OF YOUNG SUICIDE

HOPELINE247

Call: 0800 068 4141
Text: 07860 039 967
Email: pa@papyrus-uk.org
we're always open

No young person should have to suffer alone with thoughts of suicide

FR Regulator

Registered Charity no. 1070896
OSCR Registered Charity No. SC032556
Registered Company no. 03354882

CALL 111

when it's less urgent than 999

TEXT DEAF TO 85258

THE DEAF HEALTH CHARITY SIGNHEALTH

shout
for support in a crisis

When life is tough, we're here to listen

SAMARITANS

Call us free 24/7 on **116 123**
samaritans.org