



HOLDEN LANE PRIMARY SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER



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At Holden Lane Primary School, safeguarding and promoting the well-being of our children is everyone's responsibility and our top priority. Anyone who comes into contact with our children and their families has a role to play.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE SAFEGUARDING LEAD?

Miss Thomas is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) here at Holden Lane Primary School, she has a crucial role in taking the lead responsibility for child protection issues in the school.

Mrs Reece is the Deputy Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Head of Pastoral Care. She is a member of the school's senior leadership team and is highly trained for this role.

Joanne Powell-Beckett is our Chair of Governors. She is the Safeguarding Governor for Holden Lane Primary School.

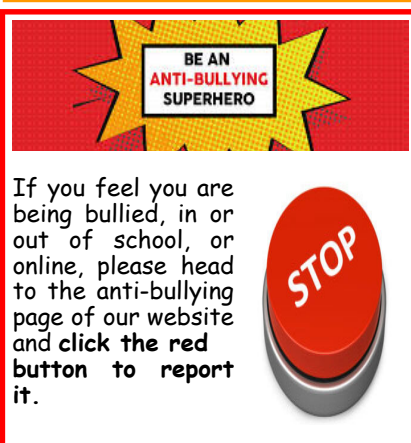
A DSL or a member of our safeguarding team is always available during school hours for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns and we are always contactable by telephone or email outside of school hours.



MEET OUR ANTI-BULLYING TEAM



MEET OUR WELLBEING TEAM



MEET OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonline.org.uk for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own 'gaming experiences' with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

ONLINE DATERS

There are also called 'Others' and are quite common in Roblox. An 'Other' is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter Others. Some player-built Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is actually free to download and play, but there is a cost in that there are some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money. People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and some private or VIP servers also have a cost.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

PRIVATE SERVERS

If your child has genuine friends who they play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could make other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.

MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with others safely in the digital world.

Meet Our Expert
Clare Dodson (a.k.a. Lunaviv) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunaviv Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. It's a closed-down ecosystem: it only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients (not even WhatsApp itself can read them). This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end end-to-end encryption on private messaging. WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency', and a scam where scammers trigger a verification message by asking to log in to your account. Then, posing as WhatsApp, call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example), containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and rapid spread of information can be a double-edged sword – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a 'Forwarded many times' label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original, and might not be entirely factual, either.

ONLINE

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp group chats being used to spread or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't see them later to use as evidence of misconduct. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for people to use to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

Another new option allows users to share certain messages or photos in a separate 'locked chat' folder, saved behind a passcode. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for people to use to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's location on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list (or in a mutual group chat) can also track their location – potentially putting strangers in a child's home address or journey that they make regularly.

VISIBLE LOCATION

Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know that sending a message to someone they don't know could lead to clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and often common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an image or message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy'). You can set your child's profile picture to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts (except...)' – additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, aware that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chat' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Dodson is a senior digital consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented an e-safety and cyber safety curriculum for schools. She has also worked as a cyber safety officer and is the author of the book 'Cyber Safety: A Guide for Parents and Carers' published by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training for the young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

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Think b4 you TYPE

Think b4 you type

Campaign toolkit for use by school staff and local authorities

respectme

NSPCC SCOTLAND

childline
ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

WORRIED? YOU CAN TALK TO US

Call Childline on 0800 1111 or visit childline.org.uk/kids

Whatever your worry, you can talk to us. It's free, you don't have to tell us your name, and you can chat about anything.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Wellbeing Working Group Members:

Mrs Reece - Head of Pastoral Care
Mrs Pellington - School Business Manager
Mrs Condliffe - SENCO
Mrs Lovatt - Year 2 class teacher/PHSE Leader
Mrs Kent - Senior Teaching Assistant

Mr Edwards - LA Governor, Vice Chair of Governors
Mrs James - Co-opted Governor
Mrs Lovatt - Parent Governor
Mrs Bradbury - Parent Governor

