

Holmer C. E. Academy—Safeguarding Newsletter

Issue 3 - November 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to this month's edition of our parent safeguarding newsletter.

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every single person who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

This week is national antibullying week. Throughout the week the children will be participating in various lessons on anti bullying, as well as assemblies and stories. Below is information relating to bullying that we hope you will find informative.

Any questions, please do ask.

Jayne Maund

Head Teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Spotlight on: What is Bullying?

DFE guidance (2012) defines bullying as "behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally". Bullying can be direct (either physical or verbal) or indirect (for example, being ignored or not spoken to). It results in pain and distress to the victim. Bullying is the systematic and persistent use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying can take many forms

Physical Bullying Physical bullying occurs when children use physical actions to gain power and control over their peers. Examples of physical bullying include kicking, hitting, punching, slapping, shoving, and other physical attacks.

Verbal Bullying Perpetrators of verbal bullying use words, statements, and name-calling to gain power and control over their peers. Typically, verbal bullies will use relentless insults to belittle, demean, and hurt another person.

Homophobic Bullying Homophobic bullying is when people behave or speak in a way which makes someone feel bullied because of their actual or perceived sexuality.

Racist Bullying This refers to a range of hurtful behaviour, both physical and psychological, that make the person feel unwelcome, marginalised and excluded, powerless or worthless because of their colour, ethnicity, culture, faith, community, national origin or national status.

Cyber-Bullying Cyber bullying uses digital technologies such as computers and smartphones, and software such as social media, texts, websites and other online platforms. Cyber bullying can happen at any time. It can be in public or in private.

The Safeguarding team.
If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the school's safe-guarding team



Jayne Maund Designated Safeguard Lead



Anna Keating Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Rachel Anderson Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Bullying Vs Falling Out

There is a difference between bullying and the 'falling out' that children can experience in school. Often issues can be very easily resolved, and with adult intervention, friendships can be restored. Falling out with peers and one off incidents between children are inevitable in all schools. Such issues will not be regarded as 'bullying' by school and are dealt with using a problem solving and restorative approach so that they can be quickly resolved. It is vital that both children and parents can identify the difference between bullying and common issues that can occur between children in school. Before concluding that your child is being bullied, it is important to establish the full facts by speaking to your child's teacher or a member of the senior leadership team.

Preventing Bullying

Preventing and raising awareness of bullying is essential to keeping incidents in our school to a minimum. Through assemblies as well as PSHE lessons (following the One Decision Programme), pupils are given regular opportunities to discuss what bullying is, as well as incidents we would not describe as bullying, such as two friends falling out, or a one-off argument. Pupils are taught to tell an adult in school if they are concerned that they or someone they know is being bullied. Children are also to record their concerns and place them in their class worry jar. Parents are encouraged to contact school if they have concerns about bullying. Our positive behaviours are discussed daily, and golden rules are promoted in assemblies and displayed throughout the school. Through pupils following these, and staff reinforcing them daily, bullying should be rare.

Responding to Bullying

At Holmer School, pupils are encouraged to report/discuss any concerns they may have about others' actions with their teacher. Initially teachers will address any incidents in a supportive manner to avoid further distress. This may be through:

- One to one conversations –
- Small group discussions –
- A PSHE (one decision) lesson if the child is more at ease with this

If the alleged bullying continues, this should be reported to the Headteacher immediately. We do not advise that parents of the victim contact or confront the other child's parents - this often makes the situation worse and more difficult to resolve. In any case of alleged bullying, either the class teacher, the Deputy or Headteacher, will establish the facts, and build an accurate picture of events over time, through speaking to the alleged perpetrator(s), victim(s) and adult witnesses, as well as parents and pupil witnesses if necessary and appropriate. If the allegation of bullying is upheld, a restorative approach will be used. The perpetrator(s) should fully understand the consequences of their actions on the victim(s), and school will support the perpetrator to understand and change their behaviour. School will work to reconcile the pupils. If the bullying continues, parents will be invited into school for a meeting to discuss the problem further and mediating meetings, with both parents and pupils present may be used to resolve issues. Where appropriate, other consequences may be implemented in line with our positive behaviour policy.



Zoe Jackson
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Katie Thomas
Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

To speak to the team - [\(01432\) 260800](tel:01432260800)

To email the team
- cypd@herefordshire.gov.uk

Emergency Duty Team

[\(01905\) 768020](tel:01905768020)
(out of hours number for when MASH are unavailable)

Useful Websites

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/
www.bullying.co.uk/
www.kidscape.org.uk/
www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

CHAPTER

4



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single 'parental control' for Fortnite. If your child has played online, whether on their own or with friends, they will be able to chat with other players. This means you won't be able to see what they're saying or who they're talking to. You can't see what they're doing in the game, so you can't see if they're being bullied or if they're being mean to other players. You can't see if they're being mean to other players, so you can't see if they're being mean to other players.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer in-game purchases. These are called 'skins' and 'emotes'. Skins are outfits that your character can wear. Emotes are actions that your character can do. Both of these are bought with 'V-Bucks', which are bought with real money. This means you can spend real money on things that are not necessary to play the game. You can also spend real money on things that are not necessary to play the game.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Fortnite is full of references to pop culture. This includes movies, TV shows, and music. These references are often used to make the game more fun and engaging. However, some references can be confusing or even offensive to some people. It's important to talk to your child about these references and help them understand what they mean.

Fortnite will be returning at a whole new gaming tempo, following tournament mode (it's still there) but it's now a 'competitive' game, with more than 100 ranked players playing online every weekend. It's a game that will be free to play but it will have a lot of in-game purchases. It will also have a lot of in-game purchases. It will also have a lot of in-game purchases. It will also have a lot of in-game purchases.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Party

Fortnite is popular with a lot of gamers, and it's also popular with a lot of parents. This means that there are a lot of people who are playing Fortnite with their friends. This means that there are a lot of people who are playing Fortnite with their friends. This means that there are a lot of people who are playing Fortnite with their friends.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

Fortnite is a game that is full of violence. This means that there are a lot of people who are playing Fortnite with their friends. This means that there are a lot of people who are playing Fortnite with their friends. This means that there are a lot of people who are playing Fortnite with their friends.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Fortnite is a game that is updated very often. This means that there are a lot of people who are playing Fortnite with their friends. This means that there are a lot of people who are playing Fortnite with their friends. This means that there are a lot of people who are playing Fortnite with their friends.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MATCH GAMING TIMES

Fortnite is a game that is played in matches. This means that there are a lot of people who are playing Fortnite with their friends. This means that there are a lot of people who are playing Fortnite with their friends. This means that there are a lot of people who are playing Fortnite with their friends.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

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USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

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BE MARY OF SCAMS

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ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

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Meet Our Expert

Dr. Sarah-Jane Baker is a leading expert in child and adolescent mental health. She has worked with many children and young people who have experienced mental health problems. She has helped them to understand their feelings and to find ways to cope with their problems. She has helped them to build self-esteem and to develop healthy relationships. She has helped them to live happy and successful lives.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday