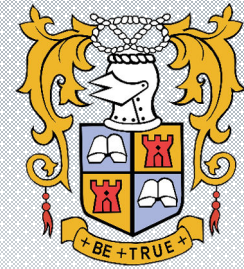


# The Wilnecote School Safeguarding Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition, this newsletter is dedicated to Online Safety, this content aligns with Safer Internet Day 2025, providing valuable information and resources to support safe online practices.

This newsletter also provides information about road safety within our community and available support for mental health and wellbeing during half-term.



## Safer Internet Day 2025

Safer Internet Day 2025 took place on Tuesday, February 11th, with the theme “**Too Good to Be True? Protecting Yourself and Others from Online Scams.**” As a school, we engaged our KS3 students in a series of activities during their Computer Studies lessons to explore this important topic. Below, you will find valuable information on online scams, along with practical tips for staying safe online. This guidance is not only useful for your own awareness but also for sharing with your family.

### Stay Safe Online!

Online scams are becoming more sophisticated, targeting people of all ages, including children. Scammers use fake websites, emails, messages, and social media to trick individuals into sharing personal information or money. Common scams include phishing emails pretending to be from trusted organisations, fake competitions or giveaways, and online shopping fraud.

For this year's Safer Internet Day, we started an important conversation about recognising, responding to, and reporting online scams. Scams come in many forms and can target anyone, including young people. Stay informed and protect yourself by following these top tips to keep you and others safe online.

### Secure Your Accounts with Strong Passwords and Two-Step Authentication

Keep your accounts safe by using strong, unique passwords for each one and enabling two-step authentication (2FA) where possible. Avoid sharing passwords and ensure they are difficult to guess—avoid personal details and use a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols.

Using a separate password for each account helps protect your information in case one is compromised. Two-step authentication (2FA) adds an extra layer of security by requiring a second form of verification, such as a code sent to a trusted device, making it harder for scammers to gain access.

### Be Cautious with Online Purchases

Before making an online purchase, carefully assess the reliability of the seller and whether the item is worth the cost. It's safest to buy from well-known retailers or trusted marketplace apps that offer buyer protection. Check seller reviews and always make payments through the platform rather than via bank transfer, which provides little to no protection.

Be wary of deals that seem too good to be true or time-limited offers designed to pressure you into a quick decision. Take your time to compare prices and ensure you're making a secure purchase.



## PSHE Update:

The following topics have been covered this half-term during tutor time and KS4 PSHE lessons:

Year 7: Sleep, Dental Health & Rights to Health Care

Year 8: Body image & Eating disorders

Year 9: First Aid

Year 10: Sleep, Influence of the media on image

Year 11: First Aid

## Safeguarding Weekly Updates:

Remember to check the safeguarding posters that get sent weekly. These cover online safety, wellbeing & mental health.

This half-term we have covered:

- Tik Tok
- Health & Fitness Apps
- Healthy Friendships
- Digital Literacy
- Fake News & Scams
- Online Relationships & Dating Apps

**School Safeguarding Team:** Mr Simpson, Mr Foskett, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Ager, Mr Herbert, Miss Julius & Mr Croydon

## Stay Informed About Emerging Scams

Scammers constantly adapt their tactics, making it essential to stay aware of the latest threats. Watch out for deals that seem too good to be true, high-demand items at unusually low prices, or messages pressuring you to act quickly. Scammers often impersonate trusted individuals or exploit emotions like fear, guilt, or even love to manipulate victims into making rushed decisions.

With advancements in AI, fake emails, websites, and logos can be harder to spot. If something feels off, don't click.

## If You've Been Targeted by a Scam, It's Not Your Fault

Falling victim to a scam, can be distressing, but remember—you are not to blame. Scammers are highly skilled at deception and use various tactics to exploit people's trust and vulnerabilities. Even scams that seem obvious in hindsight can be difficult to recognise in the moment.

If you've been affected, don't be ashamed to seek help. You are not alone, and support is available to guide you through the next steps.

Reporting scams is an important step in keeping yourself and others safe.

Scams can be reported to Action Fraud online or by calling 0300 123 2040. If the scam involves your finances, you may also need to contact your bank or take steps such as blocking your card.

For suspicious emails, forward them to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). Suspicious text messages can be reported by forwarding them to 7726, and scam phone calls can be reported to the same number by texting the word "Call" followed by the scammer's number.

Fake or suspicious websites can be reported to the National Cyber Security Centre, while fraudulent advertisements should be reported to the Advertising Standards Authority. If you encounter a scam on social media or an online marketplace, you can report it directly through the platform's reporting tools.

## Impersonation Scam

Impersonation scams occur when a criminal deceives their victim into revealing money or personal details by pretending to be someone they know or trust. This could include posing as a family member, a well-known figure, or an official representative of an organisation.

If you receive a message from an unfamiliar number claiming to be a relative, avoid responding and instead reach out to the family member directly. The scammer may claim their phone is new or broken, but it's crucial to verify this, as it's a common tactic used by fraudsters.

In phishing scams, criminals may use logos or branding from familiar companies to appear legitimate. Be cautious and watch for red flags—does the email address seem strange? Is the account username slightly off? Is the message addressing you as a generic "valued customer" rather than using your name? Or, is it requesting personal information or money? If so, it could be a scam.

## Romance Scam

A romance scam occurs when a criminal deceives someone into sending money after creating a fake romantic relationship. Scammers often use fake profiles and identities to trick people online, a practice commonly known as catfishing.

## Money Mules

Money mulling occurs when criminals use individuals' bank accounts to move illegally obtained funds. Those involved receive money in their accounts and either withdraw or transfer it, typically keeping a portion as payment.

Criminals often target students, offering the lure of easy money. However, money mulling is a form of money laundering and is illegal. The money involved may be tied to organised crime, and if caught, you could face a criminal record.

Sometimes, criminals will build a fake friendship with their victims, tricking them into transferring money as a favour. Victims may not realise they're participating in serious criminal activity.

If you believe you're being targeted, refuse to make any transfers and report it to the police by calling 101 or 999 in an emergency.



## Further Support

The following websites provide further advice and guidance and allow you to report any suspicious activity.

- [Action Fraud](#): Report online scams

- [Stop! Think Fraud](#): Stay up to date with common and emerging scams

- [National Cyber Security Centre](#): Report suspicious or fake websites

- [Advertising Standards Authority](#): Report fake adverts

School Safeguarding Team: Mr Simpson, Mr Foskett, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Ager, Mr Herbert, Miss Julius & Mr Croydon

Staffordshire Children Advice Support Service— 0800 111 8007

You can call Staffordshire Children Advice Support Service as parent/carer or as a member of the public. If you have any concerns about a child you can call this number for support if you feel a child is at serious risk or harm.

## Road Safety Reminder

As we work together to ensure the safety of all our students, we kindly ask for your support in following road safety guidelines around the school, especially during pick-up times on Tinkers Green Road and Hockley Road.

**Safe Parking** - Please avoid parking on zig-zag lines, double yellow lines, the pavement, or blocking driveways. Please park further away and ask your child to walk to your car if needed.

**Speed Limits** - Drive slowly and cautiously near the school. Adhering to the speed limit helps protect children who may cross the road unexpectedly.

**Respect Pedestrian Crossings** - Always stop for pedestrians and be mindful of students using crossings. Encourage your child to use safe crossing points.

**Considerate Driving** - Avoid U-turns, stopping in the middle of the road or on the pavement to pick up your child, as this creates hazards for other drivers and pedestrians.

**Be Patient and Courteous** - School pick-up times can be busy, but safety is our top priority. A few extra minutes of care can prevent accidents.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe.



## Half-Term Safeguarding Reminder

As we approach the half-term break, we want to remind parents and carers of key safeguarding considerations to help keep young people safe during the holidays.

**Online Safety** - Ensure children are using the internet safely and responsibly. Talk to them about online risks, privacy settings, and appropriate content.

**Social Media & Gaming** - Monitor their online interactions and be aware of who they are communicating with. Encourage positive screen time habits.

**Outdoor Safety** - If your child is out with friends, remind them to stay in safe, well-lit areas and to check in regularly.

**Mental Wellbeing** - School holidays can be a time of relaxation but can also bring challenges. Keep communication open and encourage healthy routines.

**Where to Get Help** - If you have any concerns, support is available. You can contact Staffordshire safeguarding team, NSPCC (0808 800 5000), or Childline (0800 1111) for advice.

**We hope you have a safe and enjoyable half-term!**

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# THE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM IN SCHOOLS ARE **OPEN** OVER THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February  
(excluding weekends and bank holidays)

If your child is experiencing low level mental health difficulties, we may be able to help. Call us\* between 9am - 5pm (Monday to Friday), leave your name and number and one of our practitioners will give you a call back to see what support we can offer.



Burton and Uttoxeter  
01283 504487

Cannock and Lichfield  
01283 352113

Stafford  
01283 352097

Tamworth  
01785 301027



\*Please note that these contact numbers are not to be used in an emergency.

## TAMWORTH MHST

### Schools we work with:

- Kettlebrook Short Stay
- Landau Forte Academy Qems
- Moorgate Primary Academy
- St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary
- Two Rivers High School
- Oakhill Primary School
- Glascote Academy
- Lakeside CP School
- Amington Heath Primary
- Two Rivers School
- Anker Moor Primary Academy
- Landau Forte Amington
- Two Gates Primary
- Hanbury's Farm Primary
- Tamworth Enterprise College
- Landau Forte Academy 6th Form
- Ashcroft Infants School
- Florendine Primary School
- Dosthill Primary School
- Landau Forte Academy Greenacres
- Anker Valley Primary School
- The Woodlands Community Primary
- Birds Bush Primary
- Three Peaks Primary Academy
- Stonydelph Primary
- The Wilnecote School
- Wilnecote Junior School
- Heathfields Infant Academy

@SouthStaffsMHST

# Mental Health & Wellbeing Support



If you have a safeguarding concern during the holidays or outside of school hours, please refer to the information provided below.

  
**Midlands Partnership**  
MHS Foundation Trust  
A Keele University Teaching Trust

24h Mental Health Access Team - urgent NHS mental health service who will provide support and advice over the phone.

☎ 0808 196 3002 (24/7)

<https://camhs.mpft.nhs.uk/urgent-help>



You can get advice from 111 or ask for an urgent appointment with the GP if you aren't able to speak to the urgent helpline, you need help urgently (but it's not an emergency) or you're not sure what to do.

☎ 111

## EMERGENCY

In an emergency / risk to life (either your own or someone else's) and/or you do not feel you can keep yourself or someone else safe.

☎ 999 OR GO TO A&E



  
**The Sandbox**

The Sandbox is an online mental health support service for Children and Young People in South Staffordshire. The Sandbox provides information, a space to discuss concerns with both professionals and peers and a library of internet delivered CBT exercises. They also offer one-to-one support through chat, text, phone or video consultation.

<https://sandbox.mindler.co.uk/>

## THE MIX

The Mix offers support for anything that's troubling you. They offer email support, one-to-one webchat service and free short-term counselling.

☎ 0808 808 4994 (4pm-11pm, 7 days a week)

<https://www.themix.org.uk/>

## YOUNGMINDS

YoungMinds provides young people with tools to look after their mental health. Their website is full of advice and information on what to do if you're struggling with how you feel.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

## SAMARITANS

Samaritans provide emotional support to anyone in emotional distress or who is struggling to cope. They offer different ways of contact such as webchat, email and letters.

☎ 116123 (24/7)

✉ Email:  
[jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

## childline

Childline is free, confidential helpline that can help with any issue no matter how big or small. They offer telephone support, one-to-one webchat and an email service.

☎ 0800111 (24/7)

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

## shout 85258

Shout 85258 is a free, confidential, text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope.

✉ Text: SHOUT to 85258 (24/7)

<https://giveushout.org/>

Staffordshire Children Advice Support Service — 0800 111 8007

You can call Staffordshire Children Advice Support Service as parent/carer or as a member of the public. If you have any concerns about a child you can call this number for support if you feel a child is at serious risk or harm.