

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Managing Screen time from Internet Matters

Are you worried your child has too much screen time or would like more advice on how to support your child in managing their screen time?

Internet Matters have a wealth of information on their website to help support you. This first link discusses how to get the most out of screen time and how to talk to your child about screen time based on their age:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/protect-your-child/>

This second link provides advice on how to tackle too much screen time and what the signs of too much screen time might be:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/deal-with-it/>

This final link provides a guide on how to balance screen time:

https://www.internetmatters.org/digital-matters/lesson/introduction-to-balancing-screen-time/?user_type=parent



SPRING 2 2024

Our Safeguarding Team

You can always speak to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads if you have a worry about any child.



Mrs E. Cook

Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs C Loring

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Miss J Wathen

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs C Fell

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Smart TV / Streaming services

There are so many TV streaming services available now such as Netflix, Prime, Apple TV, Now TV and Disney as well as more families having Smart TVs, which connect to the internet and allow you to download apps and access YouTube for example. This means our children potentially have access to a lot more content, some of which may not always be appropriate to watch.

If your child does access content through these services then, as always, make sure you set parental controls so they can only view content that is suitable for their age.

Each service will have their own parental control settings with most of them using a Parental PIN so you can restrict what can be viewed (and purchased in some cases).



County Lines and Child Criminal Exploitation

County lines is when gangs and organised crime groups exploit children to transport and sell drugs, normally between big cities where the exploiters are based to smaller towns, sometimes across county boundaries but also locally and within the borough.

The children involved have dedicated mobile phone 'lines' for taking orders for drugs; children are used as they are less likely to be stopped by police, allowing adult dealers to avoid the risk of arrest.

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation; this occurs where a person or a group of people takes advantage of their contact with and influence over a young person to coerce or manipulate them into carrying out a criminal act. Children as young as 6 are known to have been targeted by gangs for this purpose.

Young people may be recruited for county lines and other forms of criminal exploitation by a process of grooming: At the targeting stage, the exploiter befriends the young person and gains their trust. Young people may also be recruited through social media and/or through their peer group. Some parents of young people who have been exploited through county lines involvement have reported that they went through a sudden change in behaviour.

Possible indicators of involvement include:

- Unexplained money, clothes or gifts
- Frequent, unexplained phone calls
- New friendship circle that involves older children or adults
- Not attending school
- Carrying weapons

What do we do to prevent young people being criminally exploited?

Here at Micklefield CE Primary Academy, we have partnered with Leeds United Foundation. They come into school every year to talk to our older children about how they can keep themselves safe when out in the community. This is further enhanced with a follow up visit from PCSO Louise Rothery.

For more information on County lines and Child Criminal Exploitation please follow the links:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/county-lines>

<https://www.leedsscp.org.uk/practitioners/safeguarding-topics/county-lines>