



Staying Safe Guide

December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

For those who I have yet to meet, I would like to introduce myself to you as St Laurence's new Designated Safeguarding Lead. I hope the information below helps to familiarise you with relevant safeguarding concerns that are faced by all young people, and therefore schools and colleges. St Laurence is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and we will continue to provide materials for parents and carers outlining how schools, the Health Service, Police, Social Care and parents can work together to keep children safe via this format and also through the parent/ carer bulletin. It is key to remember that safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility.

Mrs Rebecca Overfield

Online safety - Merry Techy Christmas!

I like to remind parents and carers about the safe and positive use of devices, especially as many children may be receiving new digital gifts! I would encourage you to read the following PEGI (Pan European Game Information) <https://pegi.info/> and the **Parent's Guide to Technology**

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology>

With January around the corner, it could be the time to make a digital resolution! Why not create a family agreement to ensure positive behaviour and boundaries online. A family agreement is a great way to start a conversation with your whole family about how you all use the internet and discuss together how to behave in a positive way when online at home, at school or at a friend's house. Childnet's advice provides a list of things to consider when creating a family agreement with examples. The family agreement template provides a framework that help families set clear expectations for positive and safe internet use. Below are two links to advice and a possible template to support you.

<https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Family-agreement-advice.docx.pdf>

<https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Family-agreement-template1.pdf>

Getting ready for Christmas - Young Minds

Whilst I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas break, we know that some children and families will find it hard to celebrate, and this time of year can bring lots of challenges.

Christmas is not always exciting for everyone for all kinds of reasons. The mental health charity, Young Minds, has a range of resources to help at what can be a difficult time of year including alternative Christmas cards and advice on how to have a 'merry' Christmas.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/search-results/?terms=christmas>



Out-of-school settings: voluntary safeguarding code of practice - CONSULTATION (DfE)

The DfE have opened a consultation on a voluntary safeguarding code of practice of out-of-school settings. Whilst it will be voluntary, I think the guidance is a good step-forward and long overdue. The DfE identify the following as a non-exhaustive list out-of-school settings:

- Tuition or learning centres (which may be used to support mainstream, or home education) e.g. in term time or holiday courses in key stage 1-4 curriculum; English and mathematics skills; examination preparation (i.e. SATs, GCSE, A Level and 11 plus / school entry exams) etc;
- Extracurricular clubs or settings, e.g. ballet classes, gymnastic training, sports tuition, instrumental music tuition, martial arts training, drama classes, etc;
- Uniformed youth organisations, e.g. the Scouts and Guides;
- Open access youth providers, e.g. centre-based and detached youth work;
- Supplementary schools or what are sometimes called complementary schools, e.g. those offering support or education in addition to the mainstream, or core learning, and which operate after school hours or during the weekend;
- Private language schools, including those for children coming from abroad;
- Religious settings which offer education in their own faith, e.g. Jewish yeshivas and chedarim, Muslim madrassahs, Hindu OOSS, Sikh OOSS, Christian Sunday schools, etc.

I would encourage parents to ask safeguarding questions of the people running organisations that they leave their children with. There is a separate document for parents and carers, which sets out draft safeguarding questions, including a list of 'red flags' that you should watch out for.

- Staff are not DBS checked
- No child protection policy
- Signs of abuse on other children who attend the setting, for example, unexplained bruises
- Provider unable to name a designated safeguarding lead
- The designated safeguarding lead has not had relevant training
- If the OOSS allows children access to the internet, no filtering or monitoring systems in place
- Dangerous physical environment e.g. loose wires, damp, no fire escape, no first aid kit
- No designated first aider
- No parental consent form or requirement for emergency contact details
- Other adults coming into the OOSS who are not staff members / a lack of clarity on the roles of different adults in the setting
- No health and safety policy
- No fire escape plan

For more information regarding the DfE consultation for out of school settings including red flags, please use the following link... [Safeguarding questions for parents and carers draft guidance](#)