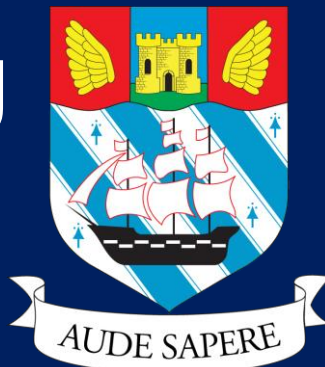


Safeguarding Newsletter

Summer Term 2 2024



This half termly newsletter has been focused around general safeguarding matters and information to support families during the Summer.

The Safeguarding Leadership Team.



Mrs Wilkinson



Mrs West

From September Mrs Wilkinson and Mrs West will make up our Safeguarding Leadership Team. Ms Stacey remains as Assistant Headteacher – SENCO and I would like to thank Ms Stacey for the support she has given students and families this year as DDSL. *Mrs Wilkinson*

Early Help

The document, **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023**, cites that **Early Help** is a key process to prevent children from coming to harm. Early Help is a process where families who are facing difficulties can access support. Early intervention is key in preventing the escalation of any difficulties in the home. As we have families across both Torbay and Devon, we work alongside both authorities. Mrs West oversees early help at TGGS and is always happy to speak to any parents if they feel they may benefit from support. More information regarding early help can be found on our safeguarding page on the website, or by following these links.

Torbay - [Early help - Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

Devon - [Early Help - Devon Safeguarding Children Partnership \(devonscp.org.uk\)](#)

Families can contact the Early Help teams directly if they would like support or advice.

Here at TGGS we are supported by the Torbay Educational Safeguarding Service (TESS). They provide us with the most recent and pressing safeguarding updates, not only allowing us to stay informed as school staff, but also to support us to inform our curriculum so students and parents also stay informed and are aware of risks. The following information has been taken from their most recent communication with schools

Pinterest – Whilst Pinterest is known for exchanging information around hobbies and getting ideas, it has been discovered that there is a chat facility that can be used to talk to strangers. This is another platform where children may be at risk, if your child uses Pinterest we advise parents to check who they may be chatting with.

Sharing of images

The sharing of images amongst children is definitely increasing and would appear to be relevant to a younger age group. An article in the BBC has highlighted a new campaign warning children of the dangers of sharing sexually explicit images and videos, with an appeal for parents and young people to openly discuss these issues.

The [Think Before You Share](#) campaign aims to encourage young people, parents and teachers to "get over their embarrassment" and "talk about it".

(Source: Ineqe 22.06.24)

Operational Security Advice regarding Tracking Devices – please share

Introduction

There has been an increase nationally in the criminal use of Tracking Devices, such as Apple Air Tags. Tracking devices are designed to track your keys, bag, wallet etc and if lost, it talks to other Apple devices in the area to provide the location, sometimes with a high degree of accuracy. Technology is getting smaller, cheaper and easier to obtain. Numerous tracking devices are now openly available on the market. For example, a pack of 4 Air Tags currently cost about £100 on Amazon. These are not much bigger than a 50p coin

Criminal Use

Trackers continue to be used in Domestic Stalking type situations to covertly monitor spouse movements. For example, these type of devices could be hidden in a spouse's vehicle or personal belongings. Following reports of misuse, Apple and Android have increased security measures to make it easier to identify/locate the presence of an unknown tracker. Android and Apple devices with the latest software updates will issue a 'Tracker Found Moving With You' alert if an unknown tracking device is seen moving with someone over time, regardless of the platform the device is paired with. Some trackers can also emit a sound to help locate it. Of note, some criminals have been known to remove the speaker to overcome the audible warning.

Identifying the presence of a Tracker

Consider these options to help identify the presence of a Tracker, if it is not immediately visible:

- Ensure 'Unknown Tracker Alert' is enabled on your Android phone and conduct a scan.
- Ensure your phone is using the current software update.
- Commercial Applications such as AirGuard are available for download on Apple devices to assist in scanning for trackers that may be around you.

If an unknown tracker is identified, it is important to remember:

- Contact Police if deemed necessary
- If possible, remove the battery from the device so that location data is no longer being transmitted.
- Do not take a 'live' device to a premises that you do not want to be disclosed such as the home address of a victim or witness, a refuge or place of safety.

Source – TESS Newletters July 2024

Festivals and events through the Summer –



There has been an air of excitement across the school as our students have been attending multiple concerts, including Taylor Swift's Era's tour and the Eden Sessions to name a few. Some of our older students may be attending festivals such as Boardmasters without a family member. Whilst festivals are amazing experiences, they also come with risks. Please have open and honest conversations with your children around the impacts of alcohol consumption and reminding them of the impacts of illicit substances. Going back to basics of not being left alone and staying in large groups decrease their vulnerabilities in these environments.

Residential camps / summer holiday clubs



If you have signed your child up to any holiday playscheme's / activities we would advise that you ask to see the settings letter of assurance or safeguarding policy to ensure that all adults that will be coming into contact with your child have had the adequate checks to confirm they are safe to work with children. You may also wish to request a copy of any risk assessments they have conducted if they are taking part in high risk activities. Organisations should have this information to hand so never feel worried to ask, you are trusting them with your children!

Beach Safety – This is a repeat of information written by one of our students who works as a lifeguard from last year's letter, but still so important.

Water Safety: Some tips from Evie in Year 13 who works as a lifeguard for the RNLI

1. Try to use a lifeguarded beach (e.g. Teignmouth, Dawlish Warren, Exmouth and Sandy Bay) and swim between the red and yellow flags.
2. Offshore winds - do not use an inflatable in the sea when the wind is offshore as you will quickly be swept out. You can spot an offshore wind by looking at the direction of a flag at a beach or an orange windsock flying at a lifeguarded beach.
3. If in trouble, float to live. If you see anyone in trouble, call 999 and ask for the coastguard.
4. Use the what3words app. This is recommended because if anyone is ever in trouble and needs to call emergency services it will give you an exact location to enable you to receive help easier.
5. Slip, Slop, Slap, Slay, Glug (put sun cream on, have fun, drink water)

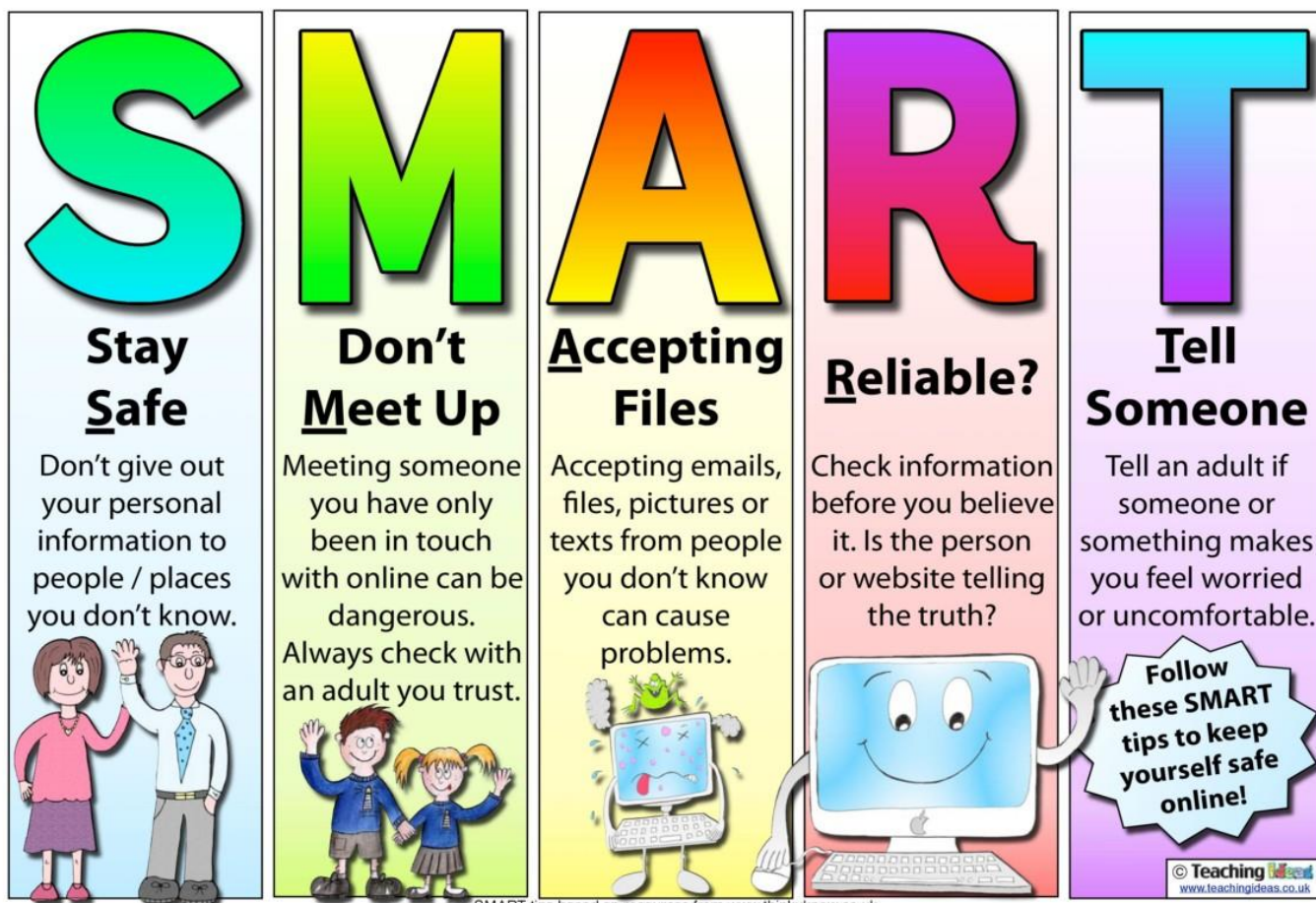
Stand-Up Paddleboarding is an activity that can be enjoyed by the whole family and is becoming increasingly popular.

The RNLI have provided some simple and key tips to improve your time paddleboarding every time you go out on the water:

- * Wear a buoyancy aid
- * Wear the correct leash
- * Carry a phone in a waterproof pouch
- * Avoid offshore winds



You can find more information here: [RNLI Stand up paddle boarding](#)



Please encourage your children to be **SMART online**. If you have any concerns with any content your child has received you can report this through the following sites:
www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre <https://reportharmfulcontent.com/>

It is highly recommended that you do not allow your child to have access to their mobile phone overnight in their bedrooms.

Online Safety We constantly remind our students of their digital footprint. The average teenager spends up to 3 hours a day on their phone accessing social media. It is so important that parents use the advice in this newsletter to take an active role in ensuring children access the internet safely. We continue to publish advice through our website for our whole community. There is advice on our parent specific online safety page through our website [Online Safety - Parents | Torquay Girls' Grammar School \(tggsacademy.org\)](#).

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

13

is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps.



Twitter



Facebook



Instagram



Pinterest



Messenger



Tik Tok



Discord



Snapchat



Twitch



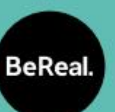
Yubo



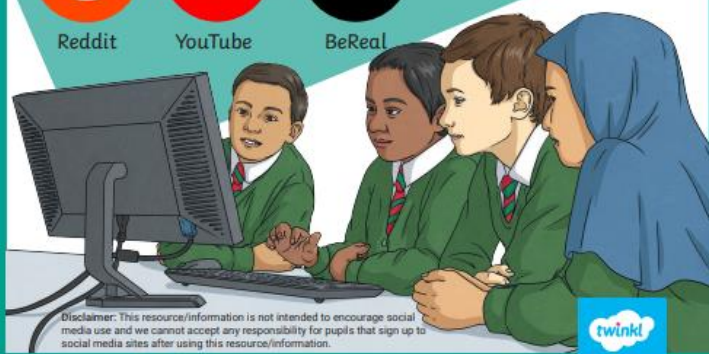
Reddit



YouTube



BeReal



Disclaimer: This resource/information is not intended to encourage social media use and we cannot accept any responsibility for pupils that sign up to social media sites after using this resource/information.

Contacts if you are concerned about a child.

If you are worried about a child, or if you are a child worried about your own safety, or your query is of a safeguarding nature, please call the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub):

For Torbay residents call **01803 08100** or email mash@torbay.gov.uk

For out of office hours please call 0300 4564876

For Devon residents call 0345 155 1071 or email mashsecure@devon.gov.uk

If you or a child is at immediate risk, please call **999**.

If you need support there is lots of helpful information such as websites available [here](#).

Finally, please see the separate attachment, which is a copy of a recent letter issued by Mrs Wilkinson regarding wellbeing.