



HIGHSTED GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Issue 008: **December 2018**

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Safeguarding Mission Statement

In accordance with the Children's Acts of 1989 and 2004 and the Education Act 2002, and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018, Highsted Grammar School has a duty to assist local authority specialist children's services departments acting on behalf of children in need or enquiring into allegations of child abuse. Highsted Grammar School follows a child centred and coordinated approach to safeguarding. A 'Culture of Vigilance' has been fostered, where it is agreed by all that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Highsted Grammar School firmly believes that it has a strong pastoral responsibility to promote the welfare of children and that children have a right to be protected from harm; this is consistent with our overall aims to educate the whole pupil and foster personal as well as academic development.

Safeguarding Responsibilities and Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Tierman-Powell

Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Miss Anne Kelly

Telephone: 01795 424223

Email: safeguarding@highsted.kent.sch.uk

Website: www.highsted.kent.sch.uk/safeguarding

Twitter: @SafeguardingHGS

Social Media Concern

The following advice has been written by safeguarding experts in Techsavvy.com regarding the most dangerous apps available to children in 2018-19

1. **WHISPER:** Whisper is an app developed for people to share their secrets, express themselves and meet new people. This way to meet new people is through their nearby location. Use of location itself makes this application dangerous for children. It is one of the most dangerous apps that your children may install and share sensitive information to others. This app enables users to provide their secrets with their friends found on nearby location. The predators, these days are looking for their victims through digital medium. Especially use of location just aggravates the vulnerability this app can provide to children.

2. **BEETALK:** BeeTalk is an application for people to find other people based on their area of interests. This app needs access to location like the previous one. By using location, it scans the people with similar interest based on their distance. Then, it allows users to send messages and free calls. The messages have the ability to disappear after some time called as whisper feature. This is undoubtedly one among dangerous apps for children.

3. **SPOTAFRIEND:** No matter how much this app denies, but it is indirectly a teen dating app. It's more like a dating app rather being fun chat app for kids. The tagline reads as Swipe, Chat and Make Friends by expanding social network and meet new people. It's a swiping app for teens and have an option to make friends. If both users accept, it's a match and then it allows chatting them privately. With one swipe, you can go out and meet people in real world. Now, if you think dating for your kids is fine, you can skip reading more.

4. **TIKTOK (Formerly Musical.ly):** TikTok is an app formerly known and named as Musical.ly. This app allows users to make short videos of their own and share with the world. It can be either dubs of famous songs or dialogues. This app is also responsible for many viral videos worldwide. It may expose children to many inappropriate things. Also, once something insensitive posted online, it can never be actually taken down.

5. **DOWN:** Down is another dating app which can be highly dangerous for children. It's not a teen dating app like SpotaFriend, but it is still dangerous app if you don't want your kids to start dating so early. This app is like a next level of Tinder. It's highly dangerous for kids meeting strangers based on location and dating for them. They might think it's cool for them to start dating early in life.

6. **YUBO:** Yubo is another social app that facilitates users to meet new friends worldwide. Its features include – Go live with ten people, one to one chat and live streams are public and can be seen by unlimited number of people. The primary reason for considering it as a dangerous app is its go live feature. The live-streams are public and therefore can be seen by anyone using this application. This is highly vulnerable for children as it's possible to record the live streams. The person with malice intention may harm children and blackmail them for sensitive information.

7. **HOT OR NOT:** Hot Or Not is an application allows users to rate the hottest people online based on nearby location. It is highly inappropriate for children to use it because of multiple aspects. First of all, it requires mobile number and access to location. Second and most dangerous aspect is they may end up getting into depression. It also enables other people as well to rate on your child's pictures. The pictures may be used to either blackmail them or to edit them and re-upload them onto the Internet.



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8. **VOXER:** Voxer allows users to have a walkie-talkie experience. It supports voice texts, photos and location sharing with your friends. Children might end up sharing their information regarding photos and location with strangers. The apps with creative ideas generally attract children more. They might start using this with their school and tuition friends. It is highly possible for your child to become friendly with strangers. It can be used as a tool for predators to find and locate their targeted victims. Hopefully, you get an idea regarding the possibility of other related events.

The Think U Know and Safer Internet Centre website have information on privacy settings and reporting methods:
www.thinkuknow.co.uk
www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/social-media-guides

NSPCC Campaign – Christmas 2018

Last Christmas, the helpline responded to nearly 600 contacts mentioning child neglect. This year, the Light for Every Childhood appeal aims to raise awareness of the subject and help more children.

In 2017/18 the NSPCC helpline handled nearly 20,000 calls and emails about child neglect. In the same year Police recorded nearly 17,000 cases of parents deliberately neglecting, mistreating or assaulting their children, this number has doubled over the last five years. Over Christmas, extended family members often contact our helpline after becoming concerned about a young relative they've spent time with. Last year, they responded to 599 contacts related to neglect between Christmas Eve and 4 January 2018.

Neglect is the most common type of abuse affecting children in the UK. This year, to raise awareness of the subject, they've launched the Light For Every Childhood Christmas Appeal. UK landmarks including Houses of Parliament and the BT Tower have lit up in the NSPCC's green in support of this appeal.

If you are concerned about a child over Christmas call the police on 101
If you think a child is at immediate risk call 999

Christmas 2018 Loan Shark Campaign

Loan sharks are being targeted as part of a nation-wide social media Christmas campaign. With the festive season fast approaching, the Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) are urging families not to borrow from loan sharks amid fears a small loan could lead to massive repayments in the New Year. The IMLT – a national team that investigate and prosecute loan sharks – work closely with the Financial

Conduct Authority (FCA), local Trading Standards and the Police to crackdown on illegal money lending.

The IMLT are launching a social media campaign to give users advice on how to avoid falling victim to loan sharks and report illegal money lending in their area.

The campaign will run from Wednesday 5th to Wednesday 12th December and will consist of tweets, advice articles and media links being shared from the Stop Loan Sharks Facebook page and Twitter account.

With an estimated 310,000 households in the UK borrowing from loan sharks every year, the team are warning people to avoid unauthorised lenders at all costs amid fears that illegal loans could result in hard up families repaying the lender into the New Year and beyond.

Links for Further Information and Guidance

If you are concerned about a child over Christmas call the police on 101.
If you think a child is at immediate risk call 999.

NSPCC:

Call: 0808 800 5000 (24-hour free helpline)
Text: 88858
Email: help@nspcc.org.uk
Web: www.nspcc.org.uk

Childline:

Call: 0800 1111
Online: www.childline.org.uk/registration
Web: www.childline.org

Samaritans:

Call: 116 123
Email: jo@samaritans.org
Web: www.samaritans.org

National Self-harm Network:

Call: 0800 622 600 (7pm-11pm)
Web: www.selfharm.co.uk

Stop Hate Crime:

Call: 0800 138 1625 (24-hour helpline)
Web: www.stophateuk.org

Stop LGBTQ Hate Crime:

Call: 0808 801 0661 (24-hour helpline)
Web: www.stophateuk.org

National Domestic Violence Helpline/ Women's Aid:

Call: 0808 2000 247 (24-hour free helpline)
Email: helpline@womensaid.org.uk
Web: www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk
Web: www.womensaid.org.uk



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NWG Network (Stop CSE):

Call: 01332 585371

Email: jointhefight@stop-cse.org

Web: www.nwgnetwork.org

FGM/HBV Helpline:

Call: 0800 028 3550 (24-hour free helpline)

Email: fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

Web: www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm

EACH:

EACH has a freephone Actionline for children experiencing homophobic bullying

Call: 0808 1000 143 (Monday to Friday 10am-5.00pm)

Web: <http://www.eachaction.org.uk/>