



WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies straightaway.

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999

Meet the Designated Safeguarding Team:

The Safeguarding Team oversee and co-ordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe. They regularly attend training to ensure their skills and knowledge are up-to-date.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs V Prowle



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Mr C Pickard
Miss N Chinnery
Mrs L Bright

School Safeguarding Governors:

Mr L Donohoe

All can be contacted via the office or by telephone on:
01582 728262

For a copy of our school's Child Protection Policy, please visit the Safeguarding page on our [school website](#):

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Welcome to the second Safeguarding newsletter of the year.

I can't believe how quickly this term is moving and how much the children have already achieved since their return in September. Our new Foundation Stage have settled beautifully and the rest of the school transitioned to their year groups with very few problems – a testament to the amount of preparation that was done during the summer.

With the evenings drawing in and the various autumnal festivals in full swing, I'm sure many minds will soon be turning towards Christmas and the events that come with it. Whilst Christmas can be an exciting time, we know that for some it can also be difficult for many reasons, especially given the current economic situation. We are here to support any families who may find the coming months difficult so please do get in touch if you are worried. We can signpost to local services who may be able to help.

In the following pages you can find information about the pastoral support we can provide in school as well as the regular online safety section, tips for helping children stay safe while out and about in the dark and the Operation Encompass strategy that we are proud to be part of.

Mrs V Prowle (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Useful Safeguarding Acronyms and Vocabulary

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead

MASH: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

CP: Child Protection

ciN: Child in Need

CEOP: Child Exploitation and On-Line Protection Centre

KCSIE: Keeping Children Safe in Education

PREVENT: Part of the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn in to extremism

CAMHs: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

SEND: Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Report any concerns if you suspect a child is being abused or is in danger of being abused.

Please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead, one of the deputies or any member of staff. You can also contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on:

☎: 01582 547653

Out of Hours service: 0300 300 8123

✉ MASH@luton.gov.uk

Or make an online referral via the website:

https://directory.luton.gov.uk/kb5/luton/directory/service.page?id=aJZE_QSgZfQ





How can we support at school?

Mrs Bright, Miss Clerkson and Mrs Bennett are all here to support the children in school and you as families if there are any issues or concerns that cannot be solved by the class teacher who should always be the first port of call.



Mrs Bright is our Family Worker and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: she works across the school supporting children and families and helping to reinforce and extend the links between home and school. Mrs Bright's work ranges from running social and nurture groups with children to supporting parents with court cases and other legalities, to making referrals to the food bank or other support agencies and, perhaps most importantly, she makes a great cup of tea if you just need to talk to someone!



Miss Clerkson and Mrs Bennett - Learning Mentors: working across the school Miss Clerkson and Mrs Bennett support children with their social and emotional needs where these are becoming a barrier to their learning. This work may take the form of group or individual sessions all of which are tailored towards the children's needs.

Please contact them at: pastoral@putteridgeprimaryschool.org.uk



CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES & PHOTOS/VIDEOS OF THESE

Why we ask that photos and videos of our performances are not posted online... (taken from a website post)

"It is likely that a child in the school is at risk of abuse or has been removed from a dangerous and chaotic life and been placed into foster care with adoptive parents. If you then publicly post a picture or video with the child in the background...a friend shares it, the abuser sees it and then they know the child's school.

Potentially, this child then has to pack up their belongings, move to a new home, new school, new carers, new life; all to protect them from dangerous people in their lives coming after them. All because someone felt the need to share something online."

We don't ask you not to share images to be miserable, we are trying to protect vulnerable children.



Our school participates in a national scheme called 'Operation Encompass', which is a joint partnership between Bedfordshire Police and schools. One of the principles of Operation Encompass is that **all** incidents of domestic abuse are shared with schools, not just those where an offence can be identified.

This system has been established to help schools provide in-house support to children who have been present at, exposed to or involved in any domestic abuse incident. We know that children can be significantly harmed physically and/or emotionally during these situations and that it negatively affects their learning and behaviour. Therefore, as part of the Operation Encompass procedure, and to help mitigate the resulting negative impact, the school receives and email the morning after a child has been witness to or involved in any reported domestic abuse incident.

We are then able to use this information to provide the right support to any child and their family as and when it is needed.



Online Safety

Pegi age-rating reminders:

Grand Theft Auto – 18

Call of Duty – 16

Fortnite – 12

We are aware of a number of children in school who are playing these games which are rated above the age range of primary education. Please be mindful of what children are exposed to on these platforms.

What Parents Need to know about EA Sports FC 24

What's the most prolific partnership in recent football history? Kane and Son? Ronaldo and Benzema? How about EA and FIFA? Their collaboration produced the most popular sports video game series of all time with 325 million copies sold worldwide.

EA Sports FC 24 – the makers' new solo offering – now hopes to emulate FIFA's success. Find out whether it keeps a clean sheet against FIFA's traditional online safety risks with the following handy guide for parents (which can also be found in the online safety tab on our website alongside other similar guides):

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 24

After two decades of holding the official FIFA licence, EA Sports' phenomenally successful football video game series has embarked on a solo run at goal. This season's iteration marks the debut appearance of a new name and branding, but don't let those fool you – EA Sports FC 24 is still a very similar proposition to last year's FIFA 23. Popular features such as Ultimate Team remain a big focus, meaning that potentially costly in-game spending is still among the line-up of risks that parents and carers should be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

RECURRING RELEASES

EA Sports FC 24 effectively picks up the FIFA template – meaning that after a year, we can expect EA Sports FC 25 to hit the shelves. Updates between versions of the FIFA franchise tended to be minor, but young fans of the game are almost certain to want the new edition in around 12 months' time, so they can keep playing with updated team kits, players and squad lists.

OFFENSIVE VOICE CHAT

FIFA 23 introduced cross-platform play, and EA Sports FC 24 goes a step further with Clubs, Seasons and Ultimate Team cooperative modes across PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X and S, and PC. That's exciting news for youngsters who love to play with friends online – but connecting a much wider audience does potentially open lines of communication between children and far older online gamers.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In FIFA, Ultimate Team proved to be a profitable innovation for developers Electronic Arts (EA), and is now found in many of their other titles. Players spend in-game currency to recruit better footballers for their team, but this process can take a frustratingly long time – so young fans may be tempted to skip the grind by paying real-world cash to unlock that coveted star midfielder.

ULTIMATE TEAM SCAMMERS

Since the mode was introduced, Ultimate Team has been a target of scammers who attempt to coax players into buying or selling outside the terms of service from EA and console manufacturers. This shady practice can lead to accounts being banned and in-game items being lost. In some cases, young gamers have also been hoodwinked into handing over their payment details to the fraudsters.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

Just like real-life football, EA Sports FC 24 offers a thrilling, dynamic blend of tactical awareness and skill that fans find absolutely engrossing. Among younger players in particular, this could lead to identifiers of a gaming disorder as they plead for "just one more game" before bedtime or spend practically all weekend playing more matches to earn additional Ultimate Team packs.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONTROL SPENDING

If your child enjoys Ultimate Team mode, check that your payment details aren't linked to their account. Bundles of FC Points (the game's currency) start at just £1, so multiple payments can easily slip under the radar. You could consider setting your child an in-game allowance, perhaps through a prepaid card, which will help them to realise that online spending has a real-world effect.

DEFEND AGAINST SCAMMERS

EA does contact players via email (although not to ask for usernames or passwords, so watch out for that scam tactic), but never through the game itself – so be wary of incoming messages and consider blocking and reporting suspected spam. Your child should avoid buying coins (the in-game currency) from external sites: it could end with them losing their money and being banned from the game.

AVOID EXTRA TIME

Many parents of young football-oriented gamers worry about their child playing too much EA Sports FC. There's now also a companion mobile app, which can also often provide another indicator that a child is struggling to disengage from the game. You could initiate discussions around set hours of play – or take stronger action by utilising the parental controls on their console or phone.

SHOW TOXIC CHAT THE RED CARD

Playing EA Sports FC 24 with friends is highly enjoyable, but if competitive types start to turn toxic online, it can ruin everyone's fun. You could occasionally listen in on the voice chat of your child's game for any warning signs that things may be about to boil over. This goes double when playing online with strangers: voice contact with unknown players can be turned off in the game's settings.

CELEBRATE THE VARIETY

Ultimate Team may be the game's 'star player', but there's plenty more to do in EA Sports FC 24 – including modes which allow access to all of football's big names without needing to spend money on packs to unlock them. This new version of the game includes even more women's teams, marking another step forward in representation: an important subject to discuss and celebrate with children.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



Sources: <https://www.windowscentral.com/youngster-spends-over-6000-119-160s-highlighting-predatory-game-design-60>, <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/addictive-behaviours-gaming-disorders>, <https://www.eurogamer.net/18-europeans-continue-to-call-for-better-regulation-of-loot-boxes-following-new-report>



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.10.2023

Be Bright, Be Seen!

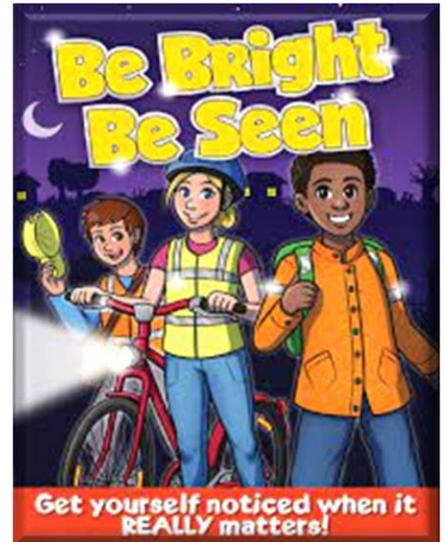
We are always mindful for the safety of our children near roads and conscious of how vulnerable they can be.

At this time of year, with reduced visibility for drivers your child is even more vulnerable near roads. With new bikes and scooters arriving at Christmas for some, the temptation to go out in the evening will be even stronger so I have included some safety tips below so that you can discuss with your child/ren how important it is to be visible when near roads.

These tips emphasise how wearing brightly coloured clothing shows up well in daylight but, as it gets dark, reflective clothing and accessories are far more effective in signalling pedestrians or cyclists to drives.

For more information and activities to do with your child(ren) please visit:

<https://www.think.gov.uk/resource/be-bright-be-seen-game/>



5 top tips on how to **BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN**

- 1** Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
- 2** If you're out and about when it's dark, wear reflective gear to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
- 3** Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip-on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.
- 4** If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
- 5** Of course, 'Being Bright' isn't the only way to stay safer. If you're out at night, choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and remember to always use the Green Cross Code.

For more road safety tips, games and videos, visit the Tales of the Road website at www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad

**Be Bright,
Be Seen**

THINK