



ELMSTEAD WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Safeguarding Newsletter: Spring 2



"Safeguarding... Everybody... Everyday"

Who to contact if you have concerns about a child:

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Safeguarding Team. If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999. If you have urgent concerns for a child, or suspect that a child has been abused in anyway and needs an urgent response, please contact Bromley MASH at mash@bromley.gov.uk or call 030 0303 8671.

Meet the Safeguarding Team at

Elmstead Wood Primary School:



Mrs Lewis
Designated
Safeguarding Officer



Mrs Sampson
Deputy
Safeguarding Officer



Mrs Arnold
Deputy
Safeguarding Officer



Mr Hemming
Deputy
Safeguarding Officer



Miss Phillips
Designated Looke
After Child Lead

The Safeguarding Team can be contacted on

safeguarding@elmsteadwoodprimary.co.uk

or by telephoning the school office on:

0208 857 1504

Our Policies: For a copy of our school's Child Protection Policy, and other related safeguarding policies, please visit the safeguarding page on our school website: [Safeguarding | Elmstead Wood Primary School](#)

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Dear Parents/guardians,

Welcome to the third safeguarding newsletter at Elmstead Wood Primary School. These half-termly safeguarding newsletters aim to provide you with key information and the latest guidance in relation to safeguarding and keeping children safe in education.

This edition features information on group chats and talking to your child about what they are posting in a group chat and some useful tips for managing their screen time.

We also have some information on Roblox and how you can help your child to stay safe whilst using this platform.

We are proud to support Young Carers Action Day on the 13th March 2025. We will be showing an information video in assembly on Thursday to the children. We have included some information for parents about what a young carer might do.

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving attendance across the school, please do familiarise yourself with the latest Statutory Guidance. This information can be found under the attendance tab on our website.

As ever, if you require any support, guidance or information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs C Lewis
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Group Chats

In today's digital world, group chats on platforms like WhatsApp, Snapchat, and others have become a common way for children to stay connected. While these chats can foster friendships, they also come with risks that are especially concerning for primary school-aged children, particularly given that most of these apps have age restrictions. The guidance below details how to help children navigate these complex situations



Attendance Matters

At Elmstead Wood Primary, we continue to work hard to maintain our excellent attendance levels and to reduce incidences of lateness. Our whole school attendance for the term was **94.6%**. **This is below the Department's minimum expectation of 96%**.

Attendance facts:

- All schools must report their termly attendance percentages to the Local Authority.
- Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child receives a full-time education.
- Parents can be issued with a fixed penalty notice for failing to ensure their child attends school regularly – this includes taking a child out of school on holiday- a letter was sent to in July outlining the revised approach. For more info, [click here](#).
- The Local Authority has the power to prosecute parents in the magistrate's court for the offence of failing to ensure their child attends school regularly.
- If your child arrives after 9.15am we are required to mark them as having an unauthorised absence for the whole morning – arriving after 9.15am once in a week brings their attendance down to 90% for that week.

Good attendance plays a vital role in helping your child to achieve their potential. We also know that poor attendance can lead to other problems for children. Children who do not attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Fall behind in their school work
- Find it difficult to make and keep friends
- Be unhappy at school
- Misbehave so that others cannot see that they are finding the work difficult
- Learn poor attendance habits that follow through to secondary school and future employment

Poor punctuality can also disadvantage children in many ways:

- Being frequently late adds up to lost learning. For example, arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks of the year
- When children are late they find it harder to settle in to the routine of the day
- When children arrive late they often miss key messages and teaching which continues to have an effect on their learning for the rest of the lesson or day
- Poor punctuality disrupts the class and is embarrassing for the child
- Your child being late disturbs the learning of the whole class

*Getting here on time every day really is important in helping your child to become a happy and successful learner.
Every day really does count!*

How can you help your child attend school regularly and on time?

Get everything ready for school, the night before	Talk positively to your child about school	Arrange appointments (where possible) outside of school time	Take a positive interest in your child's work, including their homework
Show your child that you are interested in what they have done in school	Make sure your child understands why school is important	Children can attend school if they are taking medication-speak to us if you are unsure	Set your alarm and an alarm for your child –see who can beat the clock!
	Avoid taking holidays in term time-this is essential!	We can administer certain medications in school, with parental authority	

If your child is just slightly under the weather, still send them in to school. Children often feel better as the day goes on and they get busy. If school is worried, we will call! This NHS article provides great advice for parents/guardians regarding this: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Please also ensure that you:

- Keep in touch with school staff – we may be able to help you with advice and support
- Contact school on the first day of absence if your child is unable to attend for whatever reason and keep in contact on subsequent days
- Make sure school has up-to-date contact details Attend meetings about your child’s attendance if you are invited to do so.
- At these meetings we can agree an action plan so that school, parents and children can work together to improve things

Useful Safeguarding Acronyms and Vocabulary:

- DSL:** Designated Safeguarding Lead
- MASH:** Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
- CP:** Child Protection
- CiN:** Child in Need
- 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

What is a Young Carer?

A young carer is someone aged under 18 who cares for a friend or family member who, due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or addiction, cannot cope without support.

Some of the things that a young carer might do are:

- Practical tasks like cooking, housework & shopping.
- Physical care, such as helping someone out of bed.
- Emotional support, including talking to someone who is distressed.
- Help to give medicine.
- Helping someone to communicate.
- Looking after brothers and sisters.

At Elmstead Wood Primary School, we support our young carers with half termly events. We recently received a visit from Bromley Well who support young carers in the Borough.

If you think that your child may be a Young Carer or you would like more information, please speak to Mrs Arnold. For more information on Bromley Well and the services they offer, please follow the link.

<https://www.bromleywell.org.uk/our-services/young-carers/>

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX PEGI 7+

With more than 150 million users worldwide, Roblox is one of the most popular video games of recent times. Roblox allows users to create their own gaming experiences using Roblox Studio: building levels and games then allowing other people to play them. Similarly, players can play each other’s creations, either on their own or with other people online. While it’s a tool that can help foster creative thinking, Roblox is also intermittently in the news amid concerns over young users’ safety.

No Age Rating
Roblox is rated 7+ by PEGI, but the platform itself doesn’t have a minimum age requirement. It does ask for a date of birth when registering, but this can be easily fabricated. The sheer quantity of games available on Roblox means that some will fall into teen/adult categories. Users can also interact with each other freely – and the game has, historically, attracted scammers, grievers and online predators.

In-App Purchases
Roblox is the in-game currency used to buy things like special outfits or emoticons, and to play certain sections of the game. A subscription service (costing £4.99 per month) called Roblox Premium offers more privileges and more in-game currency. Roblox can also be purchased in batches, for up to £4.99. Children can easily pay for these, or purchase a membership, without realising it.

Online Predators
Roblox’s developers aim to maintain a safe place for children; they employ human moderators for their players’ protection. But there will, sadly, always be individuals who try to bypass these safeguards so they can chat to children and attempt to communicate outside the game. Anyone asking for your child’s personal information or to talk privately should be blocked and reported.

Advice for Parents & Carers

Take Note of Ratings
Recent press reports drew attention to Roblox’s issues with potentially offensive content. Some players were using Roblox Studio to create games featuring nudity, sexual activity and extreme political views. In response, Roblox is introducing a ratings system which will rank content by age appropriateness, with clear warnings if a game is not suitable for younger players.

Set Parental Controls
Roblox has controls that allow parents to moderate who their children can talk to and which games they can play. To enable these, add your email address to your child’s account through the Security menu, and create a secure PIN to stop settings being tampered with. Then head into the Privacy menu where you can apply moderation to in-game chat, personal messages, invites and more.

Disable Messages
It’s advisable to block all messaging if you have concerns over your child’s safety. If they’re playing with friends they know in real life, encourage them to chat in another way (like on the phone), so you know exactly who they’re talking to and how. Accounts can be tweaked to allow messages from specific groups of people, such as friends or users that your child follows.

Block and Report
To report players in a game, find the Roblox symbol on screen (or the ‘Settings’ button on some devices). Identify the offending player and click the flag icon. Clarify why the player is being reported by choosing a reason from the list. If you think a particular game is inappropriate, you can also flag it for a moderator to check by following the same steps but selecting ‘Game’ instead of ‘Player’.

Encourage Creativity
It could prove a little too complex for younger children, but Roblox Studio is a great place to start learning the fundamentals of game design. Many building developers have created Roblox games which have become popular among the community. There are plenty of tutorials on making games on sites like YouTube. You never know, your child’s creation might be the next big thing!

Meet Our Expert
Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGABLE. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>
<https://www.bromleywell.org.uk/our-services/young-carers/>

Age Restrictions

- Instagram (minimum age 13)** – allows users to alter photos, upload them and share to other social networking sites. Photos and videos can be sent directly to specific users.
- Snapchat (minimum age 13)** – a photo-sharing app where users can send photos or videos to their friends. These will display on screen for up to ten seconds before being deleted, although it is possible to take screenshots of messages and download other apps designed to capture and save Snapchat content.
- TikTok (minimum age 13)** – TikTok users can make their own short videos on the mobile app and often like to have music accompany these. The users have creative control over the videos. Other TikTok users can ‘react’ to videos they see by filming their responses alongside the original video, or ‘duet’ by making a video alongside another video.
- WhatsApp (minimum age 16)** – a free-of-charge, real-time messaging service. Users can share images and videos, take part in ‘group chats’ and share locations. As it’s based on knowing the user’s phone number, you can only message users if you already have this information.
- YouTube (minimum age 16)** – allows users to watch, create and comment on videos. The dislike button can create insecurities with content posted even if comments are turned off for the video.