



# Marston Moreteyne VC School

## Safeguarding Newsletter

### Spring 2023 - Issue 2



Welcome to our second edition of our Safeguarding Newsletter. Often Safeguarding can be viewed as only working with children that have been harmed, safeguarding in schools is so much more!

Safeguarding means:

- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

#### Meet the Team



**Miss Short**

Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead -  
EVFS



**Mrs Straccia**

Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mr Storey**

Headteacher



**Mrs Watts**

Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mrs Di-Folco**

Deputy Designated  
afeguarding Lead - EVFS



**Mrs Eames**

Nominated  
Governor  
for Safeguarding



Free Parenting advice and support on a wide range of digital parenting topics including social media, screen time, setting safety features on all devices .... A superb resource for all parents and carers which is quick and easy to use!

To create your account, please follow <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/marston-moreteyne-vc-school> and complete your details. When you're set up, you'll be able to set 'Parent/Carer' as your user type.

You can access National Online Safety online via any device- including via our brand-new smartphone app. To download the app, please go to:

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/national-online-safety/id1530342372>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.nationaleducationgroup.nos>

Alternatively, search for 'National Online Safety' in the App Store/Google Play Store.



### What is Fortnite Battle Royale?

Fortnite Battle Royale, commonly simply called Fortnite, is a popular video game from Epic Games. It offers a knife-edge gun battle that requires practice, skill, teamwork and fast reactions.

### What is the age rating?

In the UK, the Video Standards Council rate Fortnite as PEGI 12 for frequent scenes of mild violence. This means it is **considered suitable for children aged 12+**.

### Available parental controls

- Fortnite has a variety of parental controls that mirror those offered in the Epic Games Store.
- Monitor who they talk to - Along with suitability, it's worth checking the online communication settings on the game to ensure children aren't talking to strangers.
- Manage in-app purchases - The game has considerable in-app purchases that you need to be aware of as well, and set up passwords on credit cards associated with the system.
- Keep track of screen time - Finally, it's important to have some limits in terms of playtime for the game. This is something you can agree with your child once you understand how the game works.



### What are Horror Games?

Horror video games come in such a variety that the genre can hard to define. The overlapping element is that these games are designed to scare or unsettle the player through gameplay, atmosphere, story, music, setting and 'jump scares'. The most common sub-genres are survival horror, action horror, psychological horror, jump-scare horror and reverse horror.

### Potential risks and concerns

There are multiple risks that may come from children and young people being exposed to frightening content before they are prepared, such as:

- **Viewing disturbing content** - Much of the online horror content could be considered disturbing or unsettling, especially for younger children. Even if something is meant to be age-appropriate, it could be inspired by content that is not, which could encourage underage viewing.
- **Added anxiety and stress** - Children and young people are still growing and learning. They may not be at a level of emotional maturity that would be able to process frightening content, even if they view it intentionally. They may also struggle to differentiate between fact and fiction.
- **Intrusive or unsettling thoughts** - Everyone has the 'thing that goes bump in the night.' If children decide to look up anything online, some of these characters (e.g. Vecna from Stranger Things) could cause nightmares and could interrupt family sleep patterns.
- **Developing new fears** - The manipulation of everyday places (e.g. playgrounds, forests) or occurrences (e.g. flickering lights, creaking pipes) into haunting grounds for horror characters threatens the sense of security a child feels. They may suddenly be terrified of something that had never been a worry before.

## What is the Prevent strategy?

Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extremist causes. The Prevent strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including the extreme right wing, violent Islamist groups and other causes.

**How does the Prevent strategy apply to schools?** From July 2015 all schools (as well as other organisations) have a duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism. This means we have a responsibility to protect children from extremist and violent views the same way we protect them from drugs or gang violence.

**What does this mean in practice?** Many of the things we already do in school to help children become positive, happy members of society also contribute to the Prevent strategy.

These include:

- Exploring other cultures and religions and promoting diversity
- Challenging prejudices and racist comments
- Developing critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self-identity
- Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, as well as British values such as democracy
- We will also protect children from the risk of radicalisation, for example by using filters on the internet to make sure they can't access extremist and terrorist material, or by vetting visitors who come into school to work with pupils.
- Different schools will carry out the Prevent duty in different ways, depending on the age of the children and the needs of the community.

**How does Prevent relate to British values?** Schools have been required to promote British values since 2014, and this will continue to be part of our response to the Prevent strategy.

British values include:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty and mutual respect
- Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

**Isn't my child too young to learn about extremism?** The Prevent strategy is not just about discussing extremism itself, which may not be appropriate for younger children. It is also about teaching children values such as tolerance and mutual respect.

<https://educateagainsthate.com/parents/>



## Family Support & Help for Marston Families

At Marston Moreteyne VC School, we understand that many children and families might experience difficult times. The cost of living crisis continues to place our community under increasing financial pressure which, understandably, can cause stress and anxiety in the home.

**Teresa Gibbons is our Family Support Worker** and she is able to help families with a range of issues including advice with debt management, food supplies, housing issues, bereavement and much more. Teresa can be contacted via email [Family.Support@marstonmoreteyneschool.org](mailto:Family.Support@marstonmoreteyneschool.org) or by calling the school office.

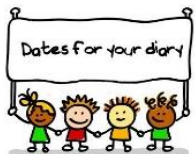
### Further Help

[https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/?utm\\_campaign=H4H\\_UK&utm\\_medium=Search&utm\\_source=Google&utm\\_content=Brand&qclid=EAIaIQobChMIitfvsfjL\\_AIVAp7tChOJ\\_gFBEAAYASAAEgLSYvD\\_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.ds](https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/?utm_campaign=H4H_UK&utm_medium=Search&utm_source=Google&utm_content=Brand&qclid=EAIaIQobChMIitfvsfjL_AIVAp7tChOJ_gFBEAAYASAAEgLSYvD_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.ds)

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/get-help-with-the-cost-of-living/>

[https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/165/support\\_with\\_the\\_cost\\_of\\_living](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/165/support_with_the_cost_of_living)

<https://www.churchendlower.co.uk/family-support/>



- Weekly Coffee Morning 8.30 - 10.30 a.m. at the Community Centre with Teresa Gibbons
- 'Pop up Shop' every Thursday at Church End an Forest End



## Support Hub

### What is a Support Hub?

- a place for you to go if you need to access support
- a place where you can contact a domestic abuse support service who will be able to help you safely

For more information, speak to a member of staff or contact [BDAP@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:BDAP@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

  @bedsdv  
 [bedsdv.org.uk](http://bedsdv.org.uk)

If you have a concern about the safety of a child please speak to a member of the safeguarding team or you can call:

Central Bedfordshire Access and Referral Hub - 0300 300 8585

Bedford Borough Integrated Front Door - 01234 718700

For further safeguarding information and advice please visit our school website

<https://www.churchendlower.co.uk/safeguarding/>



# Support for Marston Families

Help the families in our community have enough  
food each and every day.

We are in need of the following items:

**Tinned / bottled goods:** sliced carrots,  
potatoes, baked beans, spaghetti in tomato  
sauce, hot dogs, pasta sauce, jam, vegetable oil

**Dried Goods:** Biscuits, pasta & cereals,

**Toiletries:** Nappies, baby wipes, toothpaste,  
shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, deodorant,  
sanitary items, washing detergent and fabric  
conditioner



Drop off Locations are at  
both school site receptions  
Church Walk, MK43 0NE or  
Great Linns, MK43 0DD

If you would benefit from support with food please contact  
Teresa Gibbons at [family.support@marstonmoreteyneschool.org](mailto:family.support@marstonmoreteyneschool.org)