



Marston Moreteyne VC School

Safeguarding Newsletter

Autumn 2022 - Issue 1



Welcome to the first edition of this Academic year's Newsletters from Marston Moreteyne VC School's Safeguarding Team. We aim to bring you all the latest, relevant help and advice on issues we feel will be of importance to you.

As we fast approach half term, the Summer Break seems a distant memory, but we hope that you had a restful, relaxing time and that you and your children have settled back into the daily routine of school life. This first issue will be concentrating on introducing our Safeguarding Team and updating you with issues and news that has arisen over the last few weeks.

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



Our school has been given the opportunity to take part in a project that will run jointly between schools, Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedfordshire Police.

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced or been exposed to any domestic abuse.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence. This will ensure that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been experienced a domestic abuse incident.

The key Adult in our school is Amanda Watts for Operation Encompass.



**National
Online
Safety**

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 choose '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.

School Traffic and Parking

Have you seen our Pavement Buddies? We are working with Modeshift and Central Bedfordshire to promote sustainable travel as well as safe walking routes to school. Should you be required to use a vehicle to bring your child to school please consider parking a little further away and finishing your journey on foot! This will reduce the high levels of traffic and parking in close proximity to the school, contribute to a healthy start to the day and reduce exhaust emissions around our young people.



As autumn draws in, clocks go back an hour on Sunday 30th October, signalling the end of British Summer Time. At this time of year, there is reduced visibility for drivers and pedestrians and as a result, your child can become even more vulnerable near to roads. To help raise your child's awareness of this issue, we have included a flyer with safety tips so you can discuss with your child how important it is to be visible when near roads.

It emphasises how wearing brightly coloured clothing shows up well in daylight but as it gets dark, reflective clothing and accessories are far more effective in highlighting pedestrians through car headlights or street lamps.



Getting screen time balance

Screen time can offer children opportunities to learn and develop new skills at a touch of a button but like anything, too much of it can have a negative effect on their wellbeing.

As children get older and more independent online, finding the right balance for your family can be challenging but the key is to think about it early on and set some clear boundaries around their online use. <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/hub/view/guide/screen-zombie>

A family agreement is a great way of starting a conversation with older children and example can be found at <https://www.childnet.com/resources/family-agreement/>

Childnet Family Agreement

A great way to start positive family conversations around online safety, and to agree clear expectations and boundaries.

Start by discussing the questions that are most relevant to your family.

Getting started

- What do we enjoy doing online?
- What apps, games and websites do we use the most?
- Do we already have any rules about use of tech we want to include in our family agreement?

Managing time online

- How does it feel when we use tech for too long?
- How do we know when our screen use is interfering with family life?
- What can we do to help avoid overusing tech?

Sharing

- What should we check before posting images and videos online?
- Do we know how to use privacy settings and what makes a strong password?
- How can we use features like livestreaming and disappearing content safely?

Online content

- How do we decide which websites, apps, games and devices are okay for us to use?
- What can we do if we see something online which seems unreliable or untrustworthy?
- How can we stop ourselves accidentally spending money in a game or app?

Communicating online

- Who can we talk, chat or play games with online? Just family? Friends? Anyone?
- How can we keep ourselves safe if we are communicating with people who we only know online?
- How can we look after our friends when we are online?

If things go wrong

- What can we do if we feel uncomfortable or upset by anything we see or hear online?
- What should we do if someone we only know online asks us for photos, a video call, to meet up or to share personal information?
- Do we know how to find the report and block buttons on the websites, apps and games we use?

To finish...

- How could parental controls help our family?
- What should happen if one of us breaks the family agreement?
- When should we review our family agreement?

Want expert advice?

www.childnet.com/parents-carers-advice

Examples for different ages:

Our agreement: (Under 11s)

I will use my tablet for ___ mins a day.

I will make sure the children's favourite games are bookmarked for them to get to easily.

Our agreement: (Pre-teens)

I will tell mum and dad when I see something that worries me.

I will put parental controls in place but review it as the children grow up.

Our agreement: (Teenagers)

I will make sure all my social networking sites are private.

I won't post photos of our children without their permission.

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/>



PSHE Information Evening for Parents and Carers - Thursday 20th October, at 6pm, at our Forest End site.

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