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**Holyhead**  
Teach What Matters

# HOLYHEAD SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

April 2025

## OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM



At Holyhead School we endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We believe that all children should feel safe and be able to approach someone if they have a concern. The safety and wellbeing of our students is the most important aspect of our work as a school. If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing or safety, or want to report a concern about another child, please ask to speak to one of the Designated Safeguarding Team.

*In this month's issue we look at:*

- Our Designated Safeguarding Leads
- Keeping your child safe on live streams
- Soho Safe Haven Project
- Your child's screen time
- Understanding knife crime
- Stephen Lawrence Day

As we approach the end of term and a deserved break from school, children will potentially spend more time online. In this month's newsletter we look at live streams and give parents useful advice on how to support your children with their screen time. If you have any concerns regarding the safety of a child then please contact the safeguarding team at Holyhead 0121 523 1960 or email lead DSL [ddenny@holyhead.crst.org.uk](mailto:ddenny@holyhead.crst.org.uk) or Senior DDSL [dbeale@holyhead.crst.org.uk](mailto:dbeale@holyhead.crst.org.uk)

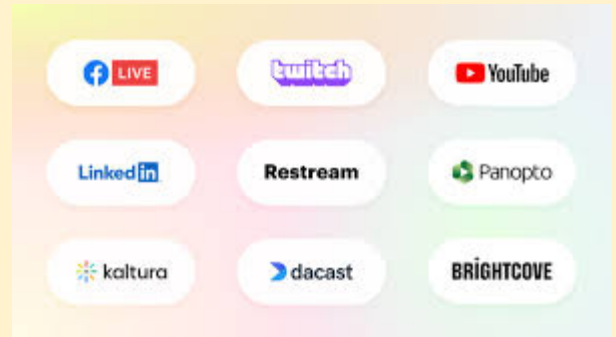
## Keeping your child safe on live streams

As we approach the end of term and a deserved break from school, children will spend more time online. Live streaming of content is now a large part of children's online activity and whilst this is mostly harmless, it is important to keep children safe.

### What is live streaming?

Live streaming is broadcasting to an audience in 'real time'. The audience can leave comments, give likes to the person who is streaming and, in some cases, 'gift' the streamer. Some platforms let several people livestream at the same time. Children and teenagers are likely to have spent more time on live streaming and video apps in the last few years. While many children will be using these apps to talk to friends or family, some children

may be talking to people they don't know, or sharing personal information without realising. We've got advice to help you understand the risks and keep them safe.



### What are the risks of live streaming?

As with most things children do, there can be negatives as well as positives, which includes risks to the safety or wellbeing of children. The risks can be different depending on whether a young person is **hosting** or **watching** live streams.

- **Feeling pressured** - Because live streaming and video chat happens in real time, young people may feel under pressure to behave in a certain way so that people will keep watching their channel. It can help to talk to your child about what is and what isn't appropriate behaviour online.
- **Feeling less inhibited online** - Being behind a screen and a feeling of anonymity may result in children feeling less inhibited or shy. They might end up sharing personal and private information, or acting in a way that they wouldn't act in the real world in front of people. Talk to your child about this and give them examples of things they shouldn't be sharing, such as age, location, date of birth, telephone number etc. You can help by: reminding your child not to share any personal information online, like where they live or go to school. Remember to explain that where they're livestreaming could give this information away making sure their location settings are switched off, so that they're not able to share their location with anyone talking to your child about the things that they can safely share, like their interests and hobbies.
- **Talking to strangers online** - Many websites and social media apps, including video and live streaming apps, allow unknown people to talk to children and vice versa. It's useful to explore the different sites and apps that your children like to use and check the features, such as privacy and reporting/blocking tools. Explore the features together and make sure their 'friends' are real friends who they actually know. If your child is receiving sexual or grooming contact, you can report this to CEOP.
- **Bullying comments** - Many apps allow for comments. Your child may feel upset or embarrassed if they've received inappropriate comments from others. It's important that you talk with your child about any features (or lack of) within an app before allowing them to share video

content or going live. You can look for settings that enable comments to be turned off and how to report content. We also have lots of [advice if your child is experiencing bullying](#).

- **Videos being recorded or shared without consent** - Conversations and livestreams can be recorded and shared across other social networks, without knowledge or consent. Your child may lose control over their video and where it's been shared. Some service providers can be contacted and the content taken down, but others will only remove if the content is illegal or violates their terms and conditions. It is important that your child is aware of this so that they can moderate what they are sharing or doing.
  - Reassure them and offer support – remind them they can always talk to you, another trusted adult, or [Childline](#).
  - Don't blame your child. Try avoiding questions like "Why have you done this?" which might stop your child opening up to you.
  - Worried about how to support a young person who has had a sexual image or video of themselves shared online? If they're under 18, they can use Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation's discreet [Report Remove tool](#) to see if it can be taken down. Young people can get support from Childline throughout the process.

### **Risks of watching a livestream**

**Seeing inappropriate or upsetting content** - Many sites and apps have no or very poor age verification processes, meaning there is a risk your child may see upsetting or inappropriate content, such as sexual, abusive, violent content. This can result in a range of emotions such as worry, anxiety, and confusion. It's important to let them know that they can always come to you or a trusted adult if they see something upsetting such as [inappropriate or explicit content](#) and also explore the features available to block or report inappropriate content. Sometimes your child may not wish to talk to someone they know about this, let them know they can always call Childline on 0808 1111. You can help by: learning how to support your child if they see [inappropriate content](#) online, reporting any sexual images or videos to [CEOP](#), setting up [parental controls](#) in your home.

**Inappropriate or upsetting comments** - Comments on live streams aren't moderated and can include content that would be upsetting to both the person livestreaming and anyone else reading the comments. Look at the reporting options on the platform and make sure your child knows how to report inappropriate or upsetting comments.

### **Tips to help keep your child safe**

- Talk to your child - [Talk to them](#) about what they're doing online and how to stay safe. Let them know they can come to you, or another adult they trust, if they feel worried or upset by anything they've seen online. They can also get support from [Childline](#) on 0808 1111.
- Explore apps and sites together - Explore what your child likes to do online together. This can help you to understand why they're using certain. Explore the features that are available, which would include privacy settings, location settings, and how to block and report.
- Agree what's appropriate together - Agree your own rules as a family when using apps, sites or

- games. You can use our [family agreement](#) template to help get you started.
- Check your settings - Check the technology your family uses and use privacy and location settings to keep your child safe. You can call your mobile and broadband provider to find out how to do this or visit our [parental controls page](#) to find out more

### **What are the main live streaming platforms?**

There are specific livestreaming apps such as Twitch and Yubo, but young people can livestream on other platforms including Facebook and Instagram. There is also video chat in groups or one-to-one using apps like WhatsApp.

During lockdown children and young people also became more familiar with conferencing apps such as Zoom.

## *Your child's screen time*

### **What's the problem?**

Spending time online and on devices can be a positive thing, especially for educational use. However, high levels of screen time can put your child at greater risk of:

- Being bullied online
- Abuse and grooming (when someone builds a relationship with a child to exploit or abuse them)
- Seeing inappropriate content
- Not getting enough sleep and exercise
- Disruption to learning and studying
- Negative effects on mental wellbeing



While it may be tempting to ban devices altogether, this also has some risks, as it can:

- Cause children to keep any screen time a secret, making it more difficult for them to seek help with bullying, harmful content or potential grooming
- Make children more prone to grooming, as abusers could offer them a 'secret' device
- Slow technology skill development. Technology is part of everyday life, and teaching children how to benefit from it can help prepare them for the future and develop online safety skills
- Block access to resources that could be beneficial, such as educational apps or websites

## 4 steps you can take to protect your child

### 1. Set parental controls on devices

Use parental controls to restrict access to in-app purchases and explicit or age-rated content, and, on some devices, how long your child can spend on the device or certain apps.

You'll likely need to set a password for parental controls. Make sure it's different from the password used to access the device, and that your child doesn't know it.



Parental controls can be different for each device. See below for instructions for some popular devices.

### 2. Agree rules on screen time

There are mixed views on 'safe' screen time, but you could agree some limits to stop screen time interfering with your child's sleep or family activities:

- Make a plan together, and stick to it. You could set media-free times and zones, like during meals or in bedrooms
- Try to avoid screens an hour before bedtime
- Model the behaviour you want to see – this may mean no screen time for you at the times agreed with your child. Children are more likely to learn from example
- Try to minimise snacking during screen time
- Turn not using screens into a game, using apps like Forest, where not using devices is rewarded



### 3. Talk to your child about staying safe online

Discuss the restrictions and why they're needed. Teach them:

- That anyone can pretend to be a child online
- That if they talk to people they don't know, not to give away personal information – like what street they live on or where they go to school – or to share their location with them. To say no if asked for images or videos of themselves, and to stop talking to the other person if they are asked for these things
- To set their profiles to private, to limit what others can see
- To be 'share aware' – think carefully about what they share and with whom. Once it's out there, they have no control over what the other person does with it. Remember, it's illegal to take, share or possess sexual images of under-18s, full stop



- If they see something that upsets them, or someone bullies them, to tell an adult they trust. Bullying and upsetting content is not their fault

If you don't feel confident starting a conversation with your child about what they're doing online, take a look at this advice from the NSPCC.

#### **4. Encourage off-screen activities**

Help your child get physically active for the recommended 60 minutes a day:

- See NHS recommended activities for kids for free ideas for activities and games
- Consider local sports or activity clubs. Your local authority or council should have details on youth clubs and activity groups near you. Find your local authority here
- Try an app that's designed to get children active – see examples at Internet Matters

**How to set parental controls (click on the bullet points to be transferred to a webpage that will guide you through the process)**

Microsoft devices (Windows computers and Xbox):

- [Getting started with Microsoft Family Safety](#)
- [Family-friendly gaming for everyone, Xbox](#)

iPads and iPhones:

- [Use parental controls on your child's iPhone or iPad](#)

Android phones:

- [Manage devices, apps and screen time](#)
- [Get started with Family Link](#)

Fire Tablet:

- [Set up parental controls on your Fire Tablet](#)

PlayStation:

- [How to set up family accounts on PSN](#)
- [How to set parental controls on PlayStation consoles](#)

Nintendo Switch

- [Nintendo Switch parental controls](#)
- [Nintendo Switch support pages](#)
- [How to set Nintendo eShop restrictions](#)

## Keeping children safe in school

Almost 1 in 5 secondary teachers have seen pupils in school with a knife, according to a [recent survey from Sky News](#). There has been a growing trend of knife crime in schools, including a 15-year-old boy being stabbed to death in a school at the start of February.

In response to these findings, a Department for Education government spokesperson said that violent incidents in schools "are rare", but that "all schools should be places of safety and learning".



"Schools are responsible for setting their own security measures," the spokesperson said, "and we support them to develop safeguarding frameworks to respond to incidents - including use of metal detectors if appropriate."

### How you as a parent can support your child and Holyhead school to keep safe from knife crime

Use the '4 Rs' to support your child to be knife-free:

#### Reassurance:

- Knife crime is still uncommon, despite worrying statistics
- 99% of 10 to 29 year-olds **don't** carry knives
- To feel safer, they can do practical things instead like stay later at school or change their journey home
- You're there to help them. Explain how school supports pupils to stay safe, including after school and off-site activities

#### Responsibility:

- Encourage your child to take responsibility for themselves and others. It's not 'grassing' to report that someone is carrying a knife
- Urge your child to tell you or another trusted adult if they know someone is carrying a knife
- You and your child can also **report anonymously online** via [Fearless](#), [CrimeStoppers](#) or [Childline](#). Or call Childline (free) on **0800 1111**

#### Risks:

- Statistics show that carrying a knife actually makes your child more likely to be harmed
- It's **illegal to carry a knife in public** without good reason:
- Self-defence is not 'good reason'
- Police can stop and search anyone they believe has a knife
- They could get a criminal record and up to 4 years in prison simply for carrying a knife, depending on their age
- If they stab someone who dies, they'll face a life sentence in prison
- Having a criminal record could stop them from going to university, getting the job they want, or visiting places like the USA or parts of Arabia

- Stabbing someone **anywhere** on the body can be fatal

**Resilience:**

- Make your child feel connected and understand that they are a valued member of our school community
- Remind them that school is a place of safety
- Help them identify a trusted adult who they can turn to
- Be empathetic, listen and give them impartial advice when they need it

**If you suspect a pupil may have brought a weapon into school ...**

- Follow our school procedures and contact a member of the safeguarding team
- If you believe someone is in immediate danger, **call 999**
- Speak to our headteacher Mr Knox and our Lead DSL Mrs Denny immediately

**If your child tells you they've witnessed an incident involving a weapon ...**

**Do:**

- Listen. Be supportive. Take them seriously
- Treat it as a disclosure, and follow our child protection policy
- Let our DSL team know as soon as possible

“At Holyhead school we take these concerns very seriously, to support the safety of our students we carry-out random searches on a daily basis and work closely with West Midlands Police. If you have any concerns for the safety of your child then please contact one of our DSL team or contact our school link Police officer PC Mason at [steve.mason@westmidlands.police.uk](mailto:steve.mason@westmidlands.police.uk)”.



## *Stephen Lawrence Day*

Every year, on 22 April, Stephen Lawrence Day is an opportunity for people to come together and honour Stephen's life and legacy and stand up against discrimination in our daily lives, and work towards a more hopeful tomorrow. Through reflection, learning, and action, we can inspire change and create a better future for the next generation.

### **Stephen's story**

Stephen's story is both challenging and inspirational. He was a normal young person who made the most of everyday opportunities. Although his life was short, Stephen provides a positive role model of a life well lived.

Stephen Lawrence was born and grew up in south-east London, where he lived with his parents Neville and Doreen, his brother Stuart and sister Georgina.

Like most young people, he juggled an active social life, school work, family commitments, and part-time employment. But he also had ambitions to use his talent for maths, art, and design to become an architect, and wanted to have a positive impact on his community.

Tragically, his dream of becoming an architect was never realised. On 22 April 1993, at the age of just 18, Stephen was murdered in an unprovoked racist attack. He didn't know his killers and his killers didn't know him.

After the initial police investigation, five suspects were arrested but not convicted. A public inquiry into the handling of Stephen's case was held in 1998, leading to the publication of the Macpherson Report, which has been called 'one of the most important moments in the modern history of criminal justice in Britain'.

It led to profound cultural changes in attitudes to racism, to the law and to police practice. It also paved the way for a greater understanding of discrimination of all forms and new equalities legislation.

The Stephen Lawrence foundation seeks to raise awareness of racial inequality and inspire an inclusive society that fosters opportunities for marginalised youth [Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation: A Legacy For Change](#)



## *Soho Safe Haven*



Officers from our Soho, Handsworth and Lozells Neighbourhood Teams have worked alongside partner organisations to create a safe haven for young people.

Soho Safe Haven has been created with the purpose of helping Soho Road to be a safer place.

Officers from the neighbourhood team went out in Soho Road, Birmingham, during February, alongside officers from Soho Road BID, where they delivered posters to businesses who are also on board.

Shops and businesses up and down the busy street are taking part in the Soho Safe Haven, which will allow youngsters to use their premises as a safe space.

Sgt Rob Shakeshaft, from Birmingham Police, said: "If any young person ever feels unsafe, they can enter any premises with the Safe Haven poster in the window, and this would tell them that the premises is a refuge where they can seek help.

"The shops have been offered training from our officers on what to do if someone seeks refuge. This can include calling their parents, family, friends, schools or even emergency

services, or the Soho Road BID who have worked really hard with our team to help set this initiative up. Around 60 shops and businesses along Soho Road have signed up to be a Safe Haven.

"This is a critical piece of work to provide young people from our communities with places to seek refuge if they are scared, in need of help or at risk of harm or just need to talk.

"Soho Safe Haven is an integral part of a larger piece of work from West Midlands Police, our local schools, Birmingham City Council, Soho Road BID and other local partners, designed to make the Soho Road and surrounding area safer."