

# HOLYHEAD ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

## OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Summer Term 2026



## Keeping our Holyhead community safe online during the summer break.

### The Summer Risk Shift

As the summer term ends, young people experience a significant increase in unmonitored screen time. Regular school routines provide natural boundaries that disappear during the holidays. This extra free time often leads to increased vulnerability to online risks, shifting social dynamics, and exposure to harmful content.

### West Midlands Police & PCC Youth Alert

Recent findings from the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner reveal that **1 in 4 young people in our region have directly experienced online harm**. Local tracking data shows that online grooming offences in the West Midlands have risen sharply over recent years.

Furthermore, the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership warns that social media platforms are actively being used across the city to target teenagers, promote gang-related violence, and share footage of local street conflicts. This digital posturing frequently spills over onto the West Midlands public transport network and local bus routes during the summer months.

## Key Online Threats This Summer

### Online Exploitation & Grooming

- **Gaming Platforms:** Offenders frequently use in-game chats on Roblox, Fortnite, and Discord to text minors.
- **Gift Giving:** Predators buy in-game currency (V-Bucks or Robux) to build trust and isolate young people.
- **Encrypted Apps:** Perpetrators quickly move conversations from public games to private apps like Snapchat or WhatsApp.

### Financial Grooming & 'Money Muling'

- **Social Ads:** Criminal gangs target Birmingham teenagers using Instagram and TikTok adverts.
- **Easy Cash:** Posts promise quick cash for letting someone use a bank account.
- **Legal Reality:** This is money laundering, which leads to frozen bank accounts and criminal records.

### Location Sharing Dangers

- **Live Maps:** Features like Snapchat's 'Snap Map' or Apple's 'Find My' broadcast exact locations.
- **Physical Tracking:** This allows strangers or toxic peer groups to track students in local parks and hubs.
- **Digital Footprints:** Sharing summer holiday travel plans alerts others that homes are empty.

## Actionable Parental Controls

### Device-Level Settings

- **Apple Screen Time:** Restrict app downloads and block adult websites natively on iPhones.
- **Google Family Link:** Manage Android devices, set daily screen limits, and lock devices at

## Local Birmingham Support Resources

If you are worried about a child's safety online, use these local and national services:

- **Birmingham Children's Trust (CASS):** Call 0121 303 1888 for immediate safeguarding concerns.
- **West Midlands Police:** Call 101 for non-emergencies or 999 if a child is in immediate danger.
- **CEOP:** Report online sexual abuse or suspicious adult contact directly to the National Crime Agency at [ceop.police.uk](https://ceop.police.uk).
- **Internet Matters:** Visit [internetmatters.org](https://internetmatters.org) for step-by-step parental control guides for every device.

bedtime.

## Home Wi-Fi Filters

- **Provider Blocks:** Log into BT, Virgin Media, or Sky accounts to activate whole-house parental controls.
- **Age Restrictions:** Turn on the highest security tier to block adult content across all connected devices automatically.

## App-Specific Safety

- **TikTok:** Turn on 'Family Pairing' to link your account to your child's settings.
- **Instagram:** Change the account to 'Private' and set 'Supervision' to monitor watch time.

To report cyberbullying at **Holyhead School** in **Handsworth**, students and parents can use the following dedicated reporting channels:

## Internal School Channels

- **For Students:** Log into the **student portal** and submit a report via the **Holyhead Helpline link**.
- **For Parents:** Call the main school office directly on **0121 523 1960** and ask to speak to a member of the Designated Safeguarding Team.
- **Email Safeguarding Contacts:**
  - Lead DSL (Debbie Denny): **ddenny@holyhead.crst.org.uk**
  - Senior Deputy DSL (Dave Beale): **dbeale@holyhead.crst.org.uk** If you are worried about a child's safety online, use these local and national services:.
- **Birmingham Children's Trust (CASS):** Call 0121 303 1888 for immediate safeguarding concerns outside school hours.
- **West Midlands Police:** Call 101 for non-emergencies or 999 if a child is in immediate danger.
- **CEOP:** Report online sexual abuse or suspicious adult contact directly to the National Crime Agency at [ceop.police.uk](https://ceop.police.uk).
- **Internet Matters:** Visit [internetmatters.org](https://internetmatters.org) for step-by-step parental control guides for every device