



Safety Bulletin

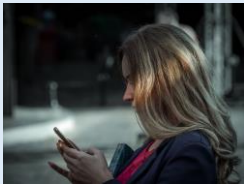
May 2021

We hope this safety bulletin provides you with useful information on some of the risks currently facing young people and what you, as parents and carers, can do to keep your child safe.

Grooming

Campaign - Gurls Out Loud

Gurls Out Loud is a campaign from the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) to empower girls to block, report and tell someone if they are asked for explicit images. Their message to young people is clear: “Every day girls are contacted online by adults who try to manipulate them...our mission is to help you and all the girls you care about to block, report and tell someone you trust.” More information can be found on the [IWF website](#).



Spending Money Online

As more children and young people start to spend money online via gaming and social media platforms, it is important to equip children with the skills they need to do this smartly and safely. www.Internetmatters.org has developed a guide with tips on how to familiarise yourself with:

- in-app purchases your children may have access to
- how to make sure they understand the value of money
- how to talk to them about data privacy and security
- how to spot a scam
- ensuring your child knows who to speak to if things go wrong.



Social Media

TikTok – Anne Longfield, formally the Children’s Commissioner, continues to campaign for children’s digital rights. She has just launched a legal campaign against TikTok on behalf of millions of children whose data was illegally taken and shared with third parties. Parents are able to register if they have a child who has been affected (and could potentially win compensation). Commonsense Media offer some great advice on how privacy settings work to keep your child safe. Click [HERE](#) for the full guide.

Instagram has just rolled out an update, which includes a new tool to prevent people from receiving abusive DM (Direct Message) requests. This must be turned on in ‘Settings’ and you can find out the details [HERE](#).

Road Safety

With school back in full swing and the amount of traffic on our roads increasing as we come further out of lockdown, it is a timely reminder for parents and students to consider road safety on their journeys into school.

Students should remain vigilant when walking to school. Please remove headphones, pause conversations with friends and put phones away when crossing roads.

We ask that parents are respectful and mindful of safety when dropping their child off near the school. Do not park near junctions or where you may block the visibility of those crossing.



Staying Safe When Heading Out

As lockdown restrictions ease teenagers are eager for more freedom and time to go out with their friends. It is important to set guidelines or remind your child where they are permitted to go and when they need to be home. Here are some useful reminders:

- Be alert to what is going on around you
- Plan your route - don't take shortcuts
- Stick to well-lit busy, places and try to travel with friends
- Make sure your mobile phone is charged but don't have it, or any valuables, on display

Report anything unusual immediately and if you feel in danger, dial 999.



Parental Control Apps

For extra peace of mind, you might want to consider installing a Parental Control App.

OurPact is an app that allows parents to monitor, guard and control their child's app and internet exposure on mobile devices. OurPact also acts as an all-in-one time management and family locating solution, enabling parents to limit their child's online access with discretion and track the child's location at any time.

Life 360 is one of the best apps for location tracking. You can set up your family so you can see where everyone is and who is on the move.

If you or your daughter has any concerns about these, or any other safety issues, please feel free to contact your child's Form Tutor, Head of Year or someone in the Student Focus Centre (wellbeing@newlandsgirls.co.uk) at Newlands Girls' School for further support and guidance.