Safeguarding at GWJS

Our school Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mrs Petchey, Mrs Stolworthy, Mrs Greenwood, Miss Whing, Mrs Derer, Miss Alderton and Mrs Burman.

Please speak to one of these members of staff if you are worried or concerned about the safety of a child.

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child out of school hours, the number to ring is:

CADS – Children's Advice and Duty Service – 0344 800 8020

Mrs Derer our school Parent Support Advisor and
Mrs Burman and Miss Alderton our school Pastoral Leads and ELSA trained staff are on our school playground every morning from 8:45am. Mrs Derer our school Parent Support Advisor is on our playground every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday morning from 8:45am.

Mrs Burman, Miss Alderton and Mrs Derer are always happy to talk to you about any worries or concerns relating to your child at home or any further support we may be able to offer or signpost you to.

ONLINE SAFETY

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Carers

ONLINE SAFETY FOR UNDER 5S

According to Ofcom's most recent research, a significant proportion of children are already online by the time they start school, with 17% of 5-year-olds owning their own mobile phone and 50% using messaging platforms. There is an increase in parents of 3-5-year-olds who say their child uses social media apps or sites. In 2021 and 2022 about a quarter of 3-5 year olds whose parents have said their child used social media apps or sites has risen to three in ten (29%) in 2023, and almost four in ten (37%) this year. As becoming familiar with technology is generally encouraged in younger children – and has been essential for education during the pandemic – it is now more than ever essential that trusted adults recognise both the benefits and the risks of infants and toddlers going online. We've compiled our top tips to help the under-5s start their online safety journey.

1 USE DEVICES TOGETHER

This lets you monitor and control what your child is using the device for. Co-viewing also provides the interaction that supports children's understanding of what they are seeing, discussing content – allowing them to ask you questions, and so on.

2 ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most digital devices have built-in parental controls that can limit the type of content they have access to and can support, rather than replace, active supervision. Social media and AI toys should be avoided. If your child uses any device (even borrowing yours), it is a good idea to explore what controls the device has and enable them whenever they have access to it.

3 MANAGE SCREEN TIME

This can be tricky, especially if your child is interested in a certain video, app or game. Try to agree on some ground rules and get your child into a routine which includes certain times of the day without devices. According to the new guidance, you need to limit total screen time for young children, wherever possible. Under 2 years: screen time should be avoided, other than for shared activities with family that encourage bonding, interaction and conversation. 2-5 years: should try to keep screen time to 1 hour a day and even less if possible.

4 IF IN DOUBT, ASK

The easiest way to find out what your child is doing online is usually just to talk about it with them. Developing an open dialogue at an early age helps them grow up feeling able to talk to you about their digital life – providing opportunities to intervene if you're concerned.

5 SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

Children often learn by watching and copying those around them, and using digital devices is no exception. When you're around your child, try to follow the same rules that you've set for them. Let them see you balancing your time online with interacting with people in real life, too. Try to keep routines such as meals or before bedtime screen-free, alternative suggestions can be background music, simple conversations, table games, colouring or "I Spy" with colours or letters.

6 BLOCK IN-APP PURCHASES

If your child uses a device that's linked to payment method (such as a bank card), use the parental controls to block buys from app stores, as well as in-app purchases. That will prevent your child from accidentally spending money while on your device.

7 CHOOSE SAFE APPS AND SITES

There are some fantastic apps and platforms that are specifically designed to be safer for children. Always check the PEGI age rating before downloading and app and test it yourself before allowing your child to use it. Choose slow-paced, age-appropriate content and being mindful of risks such as autoplay features, algorithm-driven content, and in-app adverts or purchases.

8 INVOLVE THE FAMILY

If your toddler has older siblings, it's likely that their rules for device use will be different – and that they'll access content that isn't appropriate for younger ones (a particular worry if they share devices). Encourage your whole family to be good role models and help little ones stay safe online.

9 TALK ABOUT BEING SAFE ONLINE

Just like we teach children about being safe in the real world, we need to educate them about how to stay safe online. Use age-appropriate language to help them understand, and plenty of hand gestures can reinforce what you're telling them.

10 SUPPORT CREATIVE AND ACTIVE PLAY

Physical and creative activities are important for a child's wellbeing, and there are plenty of ways to incorporate technology into that. For example, you could encourage games that require physical movement; dance and sing along to songs your child loves; and follow step-by-step crafting videos. Screens should not replace key aspects of early development, such as sleep, physical play, and interaction with adults.

Meet Our Expert

Konstantina Moustaka is an Early Years Mentor and In house Trainer at an 'outstanding' nursery school in London. She has been working as a nursery and early years practitioner, both in the UK and internationally, for the past 16 years.



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See full reference list on our website

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