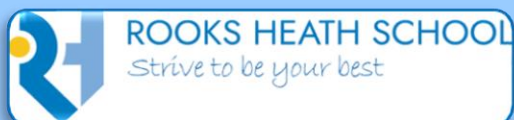


SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2021 – Issue 6

Latest advice for Parents and Carers



Welcome to the latest Spring Term Newsletter from the Rooks Heath Safeguarding Team. We aim to bring you all the latest relevant help and advice on a wide range of issues that we feel will be of importance to you.

Thankfully, students have returned to school to a much-needed sense of 'normal' routine. They have shown incredible maturity whilst participating in the Lateral Flow Testing which is now to continue at home. It does not seem possible that the Easter holidays are now upon us, with lighter evenings together with Lockdown restrictions due to be relaxed, the focus of this edition is Awareness and Tips for ensuring your child's safety during extra-curricular sports/social clubs and for any catch-up on-line tutoring.

We hope you have a lovely, relaxing Easter Break!

ON-LINE TUTORING SAFETY GUIDANCE

This past year has seen an increase in on-line learning, parents or carers may feel that they want to help their children catch-up with schooling. To get the best out of any tutoring sessions/programmes you sign up to for your children, it is important to keep them as safe as possible. You might get a tutor from school, National Tutoring Programme, a Google search or recommendation but it is important to remember that anyone can call themselves a Tutor, so how can you keep them safe whilst they catch-up?



1 SELECT THE RIGHT TUTOR

- Get to know them first - ask about qualifications, experience (freelance? Umbrella body) and approach
- Take up references and speak to them to if you can
- Ask to see a DBS (criminal record) check. NB - private tutors can only get a basic check (don't let a DBS give you a false sense though)
- Find out about which platform they will use and its safety features



2 ESTABLISH CLEAR RULES

- Sessions must always be arranged via you; the tutor should not contact your child directly between sessions, send private messages or change communication platform
- A tutor is not a friend – they should behave in a professional way, like a teacher
- Sessions must not be recorded without your approval
- Try to be in the room for all sessions, especially for younger children, certainly the first time
- Your child should not join a session from a bedroom. If this is unavoidable, pop in frequently, ensure they are fully dressed at all times, point the camera away from beds and personal information and blur or change the background



3 MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD KNOWS

- The rules apply to them and the tutor
- A tutor is a teacher not a friend
- Neither tutor nor child should share personal information, private messages, or photos & videos
- They must never meet without your approval or communicate on a different platform
- Who their trusted adults are at home and school
- They can tell you if they are asked to keep a secret or anything happens or is said that is strange or makes them feel uncomfortable, scared, or upset

Click here for downloadable poster [online-safety/posters/LGfL-DigiSafe-Online-Tutors](https://www.rooksheath.org.uk/online-safety/posters/LGfL-DigiSafe-Online-Tutors)

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN OUT-OF-SCHOOL CLUBS

With out-of-school settings and clubs about to be given the go ahead to re-open, we felt it was important to mention the information that you should be aware of, along with safeguarding questions you should be asking.

The guide drawn up by the government gives parents and carers all the knowledge needed before their child attends any extra-curricular sports club, tuition, or youth club. It will help you choose a safe out-of-school setting for children to attend.

An out-of-school setting can mean many things, from places like community and youth centres, sports clubs, places of worship, to individuals offering tuition in their own home, or providing one to one coaching at a playing field or local park. A typical provider may be a tutor who works alone from their home or coach who runs training sessions in a sports field for children.

For full guide click link [guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-safeguarding-children-in-out-of-school-settings](#)

The guide contains:

- questions you may wish to ask a provider
- examples of the types of good answers you should expect to hear back
- warning signs you may wish to look out for when choosing a provider

TARGET
Giving the child special attention e.g. offering one to one coaching

EQUIPMENT
Giving a child gifts, alcohol or drugs

UNIFORM
Sudden changes in their appearance and behaviour

GROUP
Inviting or forcing contact with older groups/adults above their abilities

FOUL
Coaches or volunteers using inappropriate sexualised, abusive or threatening language

HIDE
Have they become unusually secretive or withdrawn?

CATCH
Children using sexually explicit language that you wouldn't expect from them

DEFENCE
Anxious or fearful behavior, feigning injuries. Loss of confidence or low self-esteem.

COACH: ARE YOU PROMOTING SAFEGUARDING IN SPORT?
Talk to parents about the risks

HELP US STOP CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

SAY SOMETHING, IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS.
CONTACT:
Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 OR Police 101
WWW.STOP-CSE.ORG

SPORT ENGLAND
STOPCSE

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS

If you have concerns about a setting your child attends, first raise concerns with the provider. If the situation is not resolved, please escalate the issue by calling the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000 or contacting the local authority designated officer (LADO). To find your local authority, go to [Find your local council](#) enter postcode of your setting. *If you believe a child is in immediate danger of harm, please call the police on 999.*

CLUB ENROLLING ADVICE

Parents/carers will need to be prepared and confident when it comes to asking the right questions of other people who may be looking after their children. A good club/group/provision will welcome your interest and concerns, they will understand that you are thinking about keeping your child and other children safe - it is everybody's business. Alarm bells should ring for those who are reluctant to provide information, are unwelcoming or are unable to show they have the right information.

For more guidance and advice please click

<https://www.stop-cse.org/enrolling-your-child-in-safer-summer-activities-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know/>

Click for checklist [Parents-Guide-to-Activities.pdf](#)

USEFUL ON-LINE SAFETY WEBSITES

National Online Safety – safety guides on ALL aspects of internet use

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

Internet Matters – wide range of online safety advice for parents to keep their children safe on-line.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

MONEY MULES – WHAT ARE THEY?

Money Mule activity is a fast growing and prolific problem in school, college and university environments; it is a key facilitator for online fraud, other cyber related and traditional crime. It relies on access to bank accounts in order to cash out funds stolen or obtained through crime by Organised Criminal Networks (OCG's). It appears that young people are often targeted to provide access to their accounts either on the promise of a share of the funds or by coercion.

Fraudsters' Techniques

- A direct approach and openly ask if you want to make some 'easy money' or spin you a lie about needing to use your bank account.
- Posts on Social media sites offering 'Squares' 'Flips' 'AC fraud' 'easy money'
- Airdrop contact on your smart device
- Fake job adverts offering working from home on 'money transfer jobs'

Consequences

- Breaching your Bank Terms & Conditions
- Your Bank account will be closed
- You will be reported to Credit Agencies, this report lasts for 6 years!
- As your Credit Rating will be tarnished, you will have difficulty in getting a financial loan for mobile phone/car/rent/mortgage
- Criminal Proceedings, subject to arrest, charge and Criminal Conviction
- Social effects, perceived by family, employment opportunities and travel

Tips to keep safe

- Never give anyone details of your Bank Account, PIN number, passcode, or password – Bank Accounts are private
- Take time to understand what you are being asked to do, don't be lured or coerced into receiving money into your bank account, however plausible it sounds.
- Research any company (home or overseas) that makes you a job offer and ensure their contact details are genuine.
- If you have been approached, break off all contact with the fraudster, don't receive or move any more money and seek advice
- Report the matter to Action Fraud/Police, Fearless.org or CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111.

If the offer sounds too good to be true, it most probably is!
Report to ACTION FRAUD - 0300 123 2040 Get Safe Online -
www.getsafeonline.org www.met.police.uk/littlemedia

EAL RESOURCES FOR ONLINE SAFETY

Please see below for useful websites to support your children, together with a link for leaflets in other languages that will assist you in keeping your children safe on-line.

Parents: Supporting Young People Online (Childnet)

<https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Supporting-Young-People-Online.pdf>

Leaflets available in other languages here

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online>

- Arabic
- Bengali
- English
- Farsi
- French
- Hindi
- Polish
- Punjabi
- Somali
- Spanish
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese
- Welsh

PARENTAL SUPPORT

YOUNG MINDS

During these extremely tough times, parents find themselves pulled in many different directions. Concerns about COVID-19, work from home/children at home, along with a possible financial impact make for a stressful household. **Young Minds** have created a useful 'Supporting Parents Help Finder'. By answering six questions, parents can find out how to support their child's mental health during the pandemic (and beyond). Find the help finder here:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/supporting-parents/>

HelpHarrow

Help Harrow Digital Product

Help Harrow is being delivered in partnership with Harrow Council. It is a self-referral system for all ages, targeting acute needs in specific social areas in Harrow.

Help Harrow Key Points:

- A portal as a way of connecting vulnerable residents to vital services in the borough during and throughout the current pandemic.
- Currently offers support for food poverty, advice/information in all areas of life, as well as mental health and emotional wellbeing support.
- A 'Single Point of Contact' referral system.
- Referrals can be made directly by the person in need or via an Access Point.

Key Benefits to Helpharrow.org Users:

- A virtual One stop shop" to organisations and services in the Harrow.
- A choice of relevant organisations listed to support the user's needs.
- Process to start engagement with a person in need within 2 working days of referral received.
- Key organisations in the system including but not limited to Citizen Advice Bureau, MiND, Age Concern and Harrow Carers.

Who is Help Harrow for?

- Local Harrow residents for self-referral
- Households affected by Covid-19
- All ages
- Organisations

Please click on link for more details

<https://helpharrow.org/>

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

Parents, are you worried about: Your child's behaviour, finances and putting food on the table, employment, housing, your own mental health or relationship difficulties and want to talk about these?

Students, are you worried about: Your mental health, food, arguments or fights at home, covid-19, or do you have worries about your brother or sister or friend?

I will be holding drop-ins over the Telephone on the days and times listed below:

Mondays 2-4pm

Thursdays 10am-12noon



Please email: Evangeline.phillips@harrow.gov.uk to arrange a call back. If these times don't work for you, we can find another time.
Look out for my presentation in virtual assemblies soon!



HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

Do you need help from the foodbank?
**THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP IS TO GET A
FOODBANK VOUCHER.**

To provide the most appropriate help for your circumstances, Harrow foodbank works with local agencies. If they feel you are struggling to put food on the table, they will issue you with a foodbank voucher. The local agency can also provide long term support if needed to help address some of the issues behind the reasons for your crisis.

Agencies that they work closely with include: Citizens Advice, housing support officers, children's centres, health visitors, social services, and some local charities.

To Get In Touch

If you [call or email](#) the foodbank they can talk through your situation and put you in touch with the relevant local agency.

[Harrow Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#)



If you are struggling with Home Learning and supporting your children during this current Lockdown, Learn Harrow, promoted by Harrow Council, provides a wide choice of learning opportunities for all ages and abilities across the borough in partnership with various providers.

They have created a google form for parents to tell them what they are interested in:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pfXbm0GNJh1Xq3bQqjs8oSfBo3z3v23qZdfVSPk8whg/edit>

They are running various different courses for secondary school parents to attend such as:

- How to use learning platforms such as Google, Zoom and Teams
- Awareness of teenage mental health and how to approach this with your own child
- How to monitor children on the internet
- How to motivate their children to do work
- ESOL
- Functional Skills Maths/English/ICT



*Online Counselling Service
for 11-25 year olds in Harrow*

As part of Mental Health services for young people in Harrow, the service complements their existing early intervention, Harrow Horizons.

It is a free online counselling and emotional well-being support service providing young people in Harrow, aged 11-25 years (up to 25th birthday), with a free, safe and secure means of accessing support with their emotional health and wellbeing from a professional team of qualified counsellors.

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

The Rooks Heath College Safeguarding Team have been trained to an advanced level on all aspects of safeguarding. The team is available to any student, parent or school staff member to discuss and report any safeguarding concerns.

The team Members are as follows:

Designated Safeguarding Lead -

Ms S Rockell

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads –

Ms V Cobblah-West, Miss L Dale and Mrs L Geoghegan

School Social Worker

Ms Evie Philips

Are all your contact details up to date?

If you change your home phone/email/mobile number, please let the school know, so that we have the most up-to-date contact details.

**Useful contacts to report a concern
If you are worried and need help, then please**

contact one of the following:

For children click here



Online here



Harrow Children's Services [click here](#)

020 8901 2690

Share the HOPE
Save a life

HOPELINEUK
0800 068 41 41 07860 039 967 pat@papyrus-uk.org

EMERGENCY
APPEAL
PAPYRUS