

Safeguarding Newsletter

TRINITY ACADEMY

◆
11/10/2024

TO CREATE CONFIDENT,
COMPETENT AND KIND
CITIZENS OF THE FUTURE



A Message from the DSL

Welcome to our safeguarding termly newsletter! We are here to share with you the latest issues that involve safeguarding our learners.

Each term we will also focus on a social media platform, and how as parents/guardians you can best support your children.

We will also touch upon any seasonal safeguarding advice within the community.

SAFEGUARDING AND INCLUSION OFFICER - LEIGH-ANNE LAWRENCE

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Vaping
substances -
keeping safe

Social media
spotlight:
Gaming safety

Firework safety

Coffee Morning
update

Vaping - Substance risks and safeguarding

Northumbria Police are aware of a small number of incidents involving vapes and unknown substances. Due to the concern in relation to vapes potentially containing illegal substances we are sharing this key information:

Key messages:

- **If you don't currently smoke, don't vape.**
- Children under 18 should never vape and it is illegal to sell a vape to anyone under the age of 18.
- It's also illegal for adults to buy vapes for anyone under 18.
- Vaping might make you feel dizzy, give you a headache, make you feel nauseous, mildly stimulated or relaxed.
- Vaping increases blood pressure and heart rate and can make you breathe faster.
- The effects of vaping are felt around 5 to 10 minutes after your first puff and last for 2 to 3 hours after your last puff.
- Most vapes contain nicotine which is addictive and can be hard to stop using once you've started.
- Mixing drugs with vaping is always risky.

Vaping and the law:

- It is illegal to sell nicotine vapes to anyone under the age of 18. Shops who sell vapes to children are breaking the law and can be prosecuted.
- Vapes are regulated in the UK. Shops that sell unregulated vapes are breaking the law.
- Actions can be taken against any trader selling vapes to underage customers or selling illegal products, including seizing products, written warnings to retailers and formal criminal investigations.
- Carry the health warning 'This product contains nicotine which is a highly addictive substance.'
- Illegal vapes can cause serious harm as they are unregulated and may contain unsafe levels of metals such as nickel, lead and other harmful substances.



Firework Safety

With Fire works night fast approaching please remember these safety tips:

- Do not leave children around fireworks
- Never use fireworks impaired by drugs or alcohol
- Only light one firework at a time
- Point fireworks away from people or buildings
- Soak spent fireworks in water before discarding



Coffee Mornings

We will soon be announcing dates for our coffee mornings at our upper site!

These are a great opportunity to come meet other parents and chat to some of our staff.

We will also be able to offer and safeguarding advice to parents with questions during these events.

Social Media spotlight: Gaming Safety

Adding Friends

Online Gaming can be a good way for your children to connect with their friends away from school. However, there are some safety precautions to take:

- Ensure that people your friends are adding are people they know.
- Check that the friends are appropriate people for your child to be gaming with.
- Speak to other adults before adding friends to games.
- Monitor your child while gaming.

Game chat

Often when children are playing online games with friends they will use either a group message chat or a voice chat.

These chats can often become inappropriate between young people.

Things to look out for within chat:

- Bullying
- Inappropriate Language
- Explicit chat
- Threats of violence
- Unknown players chatting with children



A Few Notes To Remember

Tips for playing games online:

- Choose a safe username. Make sure your nickname does not include your:
- Be careful what you share.
- Think about who you're playing with.
- Check your privacy settings.
- Take breaks.
- Watch out for loot boxes and in-app purchases.
- Mods and downloads aren't always safe.

Age Restrictions

All games will come with an age restriction, these are the same as film age restrictions to safeguard the material your children are viewing.

Children should only be playing Games in relation to their age rating. Often age restricted games can have graphic content for younger children that will expose them to material they are too young to understand.

Online Gaming

There are many platforms where gameplay is online and can be accessed anonymously by people of any age.

On these platforms your children do not always know who they are talking to and can be subjected to inappropriate people on the chat functions.

For platforms such as ROBLOX it is important for parents to set the appropriate age rating for your child, and monitor their online interactions with others.
