

Crockerton C of E Primary School

Safeguarding Newsletter 3: Discrimination and YouTube Safety

February '24

Our Commitment

Crockerton C of E Primary School is committed to providing a caring, friendly, safe and Christian environment for all our pupils so that they can learn in an atmosphere of mutual respect and co-operation.

Crockerton School prioritises safeguarding and the promotion of the welfare of children and young people. We ensure that all our recruitment and employment practices reflect this commitment. The safety and wellbeing of every child in the care of Crockerton School is our absolute priority. We expect all of our staff, pupils, parents, governors, visitors, contractors and third-party professionals to share this view. The safeguarding and protection

Discrimination

Discrimination is “treating someone unfairly because of who they are.” (Citizens Advice, 2022). By law, there are 9 characteristics that are protected from discrimination under the [Equality Act 2010](#):

- Age
- Disability
- Religion/Belief
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage/Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy/Maternity
- Race/Ethnicity
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation



If someone is targeted or treated unfairly because of one or more of these characteristics, then they are being unlawfully discriminated against. This also includes someone being treated differently because another person thinks that they belong to a group with a protected characteristic, whether it's true or not.

A Stonewall survey across many schools found the most common form of homophobic language heard in schools is 'that's so gay' and 'you're so gay'. These comments are sometimes directed towards people who are actually, or perceived to be, gay. However, they are most often used to mean that something is bad or rubbish, with no conscious link to sexual orientation at all. Whilst often dismissed as banter, the unchallenged use of 'gay' to mean bad or rubbish has a profoundly negative effect on gay young people's self-esteem. It also affects pupils who have gay friends, family or loved ones.

At Crockerton School, we celebrate diversity and teach the importance of this to the pupils. We do not tolerate discrimination in any form and it will always be challenged.

We teach this content, age-appropriately through our Values/PSHE curriculum.

Meet the Designated Safeguarding Team:

The Safeguarding Team oversee and coordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe. They regularly attend training to ensure their skills and knowledge are up-to-date.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs Nic Ilic

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs Kate Woodley

School Safeguarding Governor:

Mr Nick Martin

Mental Health Lead:

Miss Charlotte Sides

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Gov:

Mr Tony South

All can be contacted via the office
01985 212168

If you have significant safeguarding concerns about someone who is working or volunteering with children and young people, call 0300 456 0108 and ask to speak to the Designated Officer for Allegations (DOFA) for advice, or email dofaservice@wiltshire.gov.uk Or 0300 456 0100 - Out of hours service

https://crockertonprimary.eschools.co.uk/web/safeguarding_information/631650

Our Web of Support



[On-Line Safety Policy](#)

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

▶ YOUTUBE ▶

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.



CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.



CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.



MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.



LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!



Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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