



Safeguarding & Child Protection at Ellesmere Port Catholic High School

At EPCHS we are :

**Ready
Respectful
Safe**



"Great things happen when you care"

Dear Lord,
Fill our lives with Joy
Fill our lives with Love
Fill our loves with Peace
We give thanks to you for the
gift of life,
Give us the courage to live it
to the full.
Amen

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all of our students following the summer break. In this newsletter we aim to bring you all the latest, relevant help and advice on issues that we feel will be of importance to you.

As you begin this school year, stand up; stand out. Be strong. Think of others, step up, step out. Be someone who changes the world. It's going to be a great year.

Operation Encompass

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School is an Operation Encompass School. Operation Encompass is a police and education early information sharing partnership enabling schools to offer



Immediate support to children and young people experiencing domestic abuse. Operation Encompass ensures that there is a simple telephone call or notification to a school's trained Designated Safeguarding Lead /Officer (Mrs C Hughes & Mrs J Jones) prior to the start of the next school day after an incident of police attended domestic abuse where there are children related to either of the adult parties involved.

Children are negatively impacted by experiencing domestic abuse and without early intervention and support this negative impact can last through a child's life course. Domestic abuse can impact upon social, psychological, physical, emotional and behavioural outcomes with an often negative impact upon a child's academic success. Experiencing domestic abuse has been identified as an Adverse Childhood Experience.

Operation Encompass aims, by directly connecting police and schools, to secure better outcomes for children, to enable schools to better understand the impact living with domestic abuse has upon children, to help schools to better understand a child's lived experience and to therefore be able to support and nurture each child, making a child's day better and giving them a better tomorrow.

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.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Jayne Jones

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Carly Hughes

Useful Acronyms and Vocabulary

CEOP - Child Exploitation
and On-line Protection
Centre

CYC—Cheshire Young
Carers

CAMHS - Child and
Adolescent Mental Health
Services

KSCIE - Keeping Children
Safe in Education

RSE - Relationships and
Sex Education

ELSA - Emotional Literacy
Support Assistants

Useful Websites

youngminds.org.uk

nspcc.org.uk

childline.org.uk

cheshireyoungcarers.org

ldas.org.uk

papyrus-uk.org

The SHARP System - (Student Help Advice Reporting Page System)

SHARP allows young people to report any incidents which occur within the school and local community anonymously and without fear. Aside from the reporting tool **SHARP** delivers educational content to raise awareness on a wide range of subjects including: Bullying, Health, Community Issues, Weapons and Hate Crime.

So Why Use SHARP?

There are many reasons why young people decide not to talk about incidents, whether that is due to not wanting to talk face to face, lack of confidence, scared, peer pressure or scared in case someone sees them talking to or seen in the schools office but to name just a few.

SHARP is a web based tool which is personalised to each school by schools colours and school badge, together with a photograph of a member of staff who is trusted and well known within the school. The **SHARP** System promotes inclusion, safeguarding, e-safety and provides additional opportunities for students to report their concerns.

Students can access the SHARP page via Microsoft Teams and the EPOCHS website. An email is sent to Mrs J Jones, Mrs C Hughes & Mrs C Murphy

Digital Safety Alert - We would like to alert you about the Yubo App.

Previously known as Yellow, the Yubo app is extremely popular among teens. It mimics adult social media & dating apps like Tinder, it has been referred to by social media commentators as being a dating app for teens – as such there is scope for such a platform to be misused.

Regional digital safety teams have seen a recent increase in children and young people using this app. This has resulted in some of our young people going missing to meet other peers through the app, potentially placing themselves at great risk of harm and abuse.

What is Yubo?

Yubo calls itself a platform to chat and livestream with friends.

In the iOS App Store, it is rated for users 17+ and on Google Play, it is marked 'T' (Teen).

Children can register on Yubo with an active mobile phone number.

New users need to provide personal details such as name, date of birth, phone number and more. A website called 'Yoti' allows the user to verify the account. A yellow tick appears on verified profiles.

Users need to provide access to microphone and GPS.

Users of the app can swipe right to say, 'yes' and left for 'no', exactly as on Tinder and other dating apps. On Yubo, if both parties say 'yes', they are matched and can then chat and follow each other on Snapchat or Instagram.

Users can also host live video streams or chats which are open for viewing. So, strangers and friends alike can view such streamed events!

Concerns:

1 - Poor Age Restrictions/Privacy Settings: Although the terms and conditions state that Yubo is strictly for users above 13, there is no credible age-gate that can prevent a young child from joining the platform. It is almost impossible to verify the identity of a Yubo user.

2 - Livestream: Children can initiate live video streams of their day, in their bedroom or any other location. Any number of strangers can view the stream and can send questions or interact via live text chat. These are not restricted to friends alone and are often open to strangers; users are then encouraged to add unknown attendees/viewers as friends during the stream. These live streams can also be recorded.

3 - Multi Platform Accessibility: A user can connect other social media accounts e.g., Snapchat, Instagram, Skipper with the Yubo account. Therefore, it's easier for a potential for others to track down and our young people across several platforms.

4 - Inappropriate Content: According to the Mobicip site, the App Guidelines do not state that profiles posting adult/inappropriate content will be removed.

Safety Measures for Parents to Put in Place:

Remember to pay attention to how children are using social media. Pay attention to their actions/behaviour with their smartphones. Notice if they are asking for privacy or running to the bedroom or bathroom to use their smartphone.

Keep open lines of communication with your children. Discuss their usage of social media and determine if they are using the app or wanting to start using it. If they are, first consider whether your child is emotionally mature enough to be exposed to social media, the contents of social media speak openly about the risks. If more advice is required please contact our Digital Safety Lead Mrs C Murphy.

Firework Safety

Firework season is upon us, the availability of fireworks can bring anti-social behaviour as well as extremely dangerous behaviour.

Please speak with your children about the dangers of mis-using fireworks, you could be prosecuted!!

What is firework misuse?

- Possessing CAT F1 fireworks whilst aged 15 or under
- Possessing CAT F2 or CAT F3 fireworks whilst aged 17 or under
- Letting off fireworks between 11pm and 7am (midnight on Bonfire Night)
- Throwing or setting off fireworks in a public place



Sunday 31st October will see us putting the clocks back an hour marking the end of British Summertime. Road traffic collisions increase by 20% in the fortnight after the time change. Sadly, some of those collisions will involve child pedestrians and cyclists. Children under-16 are one of the most vulnerable groups of road users.

The latest available government statistics (2015) * show that 58% of children who die or are seriously injured in a road collision are involved in incidents between 3 and 7pm. From 31st October, much of those will happen in darkness. Whilst younger children are at risk, the data shows that 11 - 15-year olds are actually more at risk from accidents that kill or result in serious injury.



WHAT IS SEXUAL HARASSMENT?

Sexual harassment is unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature which, whether intended or not: Violates your dignity and / or Creates an offensive environment.

What to do...

If someone is making you feel uncomfortable because of their unwanted sexual behaviour, you have every right to tell them how they are making you feel and to ask them to stop. They should respect this.

You should also keep a record of what's happened and who sexually harassed you.

Online - If someone is sexually harassing online then you can report that to the website, platform or app, that it's happening on, and they should take action against this. You should also be able to block that person from being able to send you more messages.

At School - You could tell a teacher or member of staff that you trust what's been happening. It may feel difficult but you haven't done anything wrong and deserve to feel safe and happy at school.

Elsewhere - If you are being sexually harassed somewhere else, then you should tell an adult you trust. This could be another family member or a teacher. You have a right to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect.

Sexual harassment includes unwanted:

Sexual advances and touching

Sexual comments both in person and online

Objectification of you by talking about your body

Asking intimate questions about your body

Showing or sending you sexually explicit pictures or videos

Sexual jokes or propositions

Talking to you about sex and porn

Sexual harassment can be done by anyone including other young people and family members.