



Safeguarding Newsletter—Spring Term 2 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a good half term holiday, we look forward to seeing the children for the second half of the spring term.

All staff at Belle Vue have a responsibility to safeguard children but just a reminder to you that we have the following designated staff in place with responsibility for safeguarding:

Mrs. C Davies—Designated Safeguarding lead
Mrs. S Richardson—Deputy Safeguarding lead
Mrs. A Perrett—Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Mrs. C Mulligan—Deputy Safeguarding lead

Governor responsible for safeguarding: Mrs. S Rose

If you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of a child/children please contact the school immediately on 01384 389900 or email info@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk. **During holiday time, please email safeguarding concerns to:** safeguarding@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk

[What is the PREVENT Strategy?](#)

Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extremist causes. The Prevent Strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including the extreme far-right wing and extreme Islamist groups.

[How does the Prevent strategy apply to schools and parents?](#)

From July 2015 all schools have a duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism.

This means we have a responsibility to protect children from extremism and violent views the same way we protect them from drugs or gang violence.

[The Prevent strategy](#) is not just about discussing extremism itself, which may not be appropriate for younger children. However, it is about teaching children the British Values such as Rule of Law, Democracy, Individual Liberty, Tolerance and Mutual respect.

We do many age appropriate things in school to help students become positive, happy members of society, which also contributes to the Prevent Strategy.





These include:

- ◆ Exploring other cultures, religions and promoting diversity; Challenging prejudices and racist comments;
- ◆ Developing critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self-identity; Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students, as well as British values such as democracy.
- ◆ Staff being aware of the vulnerable pupils within their cohort. We also aim to protect students from the risk of radicalisation, for example, using filters on the internet to make sure they can't access extremist and terrorist material, or by vetting visitors who come into school to work with students

Importantly, we can provide a safe place for pupils to discuss any issues so they better understand how to protect themselves.

Children are spending more time than ever on social media and gaming platforms so it is no surprise that online grooming by extremists is on the rise. Young people are especially being targeted by groups and individuals promoting violence and hatred.

Helping your child be digitally savvy and knowing the signs of radicalisation will help keep them safe and protect them from potential risks.

You want your child to be happy and healthy and that means you already know the places you can get help and advice if they're not well or are struggling at school. Support is also there if you're worried your child is being radicalised or exploited by extremists. <https://actearly.uk/>

Designated Safeguarding leads at Belle Vue Primary have been trained in Prevent awareness and our staff have an annual refresher session. If you have any concerns regarding Prevent, please do not hesitate in asking to speak to one of our safeguarding leads.

For more information please click on the following website:
<https://www.educateagainsthate.com/>

The logo for 'educate.against.hate' is displayed on a bright yellow rectangular background. The text 'educate.against.hate' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A thick red horizontal line is drawn across the word 'hate', striking through it.

**educate.against.
hate**

Online Safety advice for parents/carers

Oversharing

Children and young people can sometimes feel pressure to overshare online. Remind them that they shouldn't share private things, such as:

- ◆ Personal information, like names, phone numbers, links to other social media accounts or their school
- ◆ Live or frequent locations
- ◆ Other people's personal information
- ◆ Links to join private group chats
- ◆ Photos of themselves, photos of their body

Sharing their location

Many apps and games give you the option to share your location. You should help children think about how and when they're sharing it. Some of the ways they may be likely to share location include:

- ◆ Tagging photos with the geo-location
- ◆ Checking into venues
- ◆ Sharing journeys
- ◆ Location settings on your child's device
- ◆ Sharing images or videos that contain street names etc.

If shared publicly, their location could be seen by someone they don't know. People could find out where they live or go to school, allowing an accurate picture of their daily routine to be built up.

Talking to people they don't know

Some social networking sites promote connecting you to chat with people you don't know. This puts young people at risk of grooming or online forms of abuse, along with the risk of moving the conversation to other platforms or meeting up offline. You should be aware of this across all social media.

Sending or receiving inappropriate content

Young people can feel pressured into sharing content that could be harmful to themselves or others. This could be in the form of sexting or sharing nudes, or it might be sharing memes and images of others without their consent – which can be a form of cyberbullying.

DMs (direct messages) can be used to share very quickly and they have no control over how the image is shared further. Some social platforms have features such as disappearing messages – where an image or text will only show for a certain amount of time for the recipient before deleting. This might make users feel they can share more, but the recipient can still screenshot and forward the content to others.

Obsessive focus on likes and comments

Children may be very focused on how many likes or comments their posts get, which can leave them feeling that they aren't good enough, or not as popular as someone else. Try to help them remember that likes aren't everything. Instagram has an option to turn off likes on posts – that may help to ease the pressure.

