



Oaklands Infant and Junior Schools

Butler Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 6QZ

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14th March 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

This is the first edition of a termly update from our Trust:

Termly Safeguarding and Online Safety Update for Parents (Spring 2025)

As we progress through this term, we remain deeply committed to working with you to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils, both in school and online. Safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and we are pleased to provide you with the latest updates, guidance, and resources to support your family.

Safeguarding Updates

Updated School Safeguarding Policy:

Our safeguarding policy has been updated in line with the latest government guidance, including *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025*. You can find the updated policy on our website or request a copy from the school office.

Key Safeguarding Contacts:

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** Ellen Weston & Duncan Holland (Heads of School)
- **Deputy DSLs:** Hazel West (Executive Headteacher) and Nikki Lenon (Family Support)
- **Safeguarding Governor:** Mat Parker

Focus on Mental Health and Wellbeing:

We are dedicated to supporting pupils' mental health through the curriculum, staff training and a range of supporting interventions. If you have concerns about your child's mental health or wellbeing, please contact us or explore resources like:

- [YoungMinds Parents' Helpline](#)
- [Anna Freud Centre for Children and Families](#)

Online Safety Updates

With children spending a significant time online for both learning and leisure, staying informed about online safety is critical. Below are this term's key updates and recommendations:

Popular Platforms and Risks:

Children are increasingly using platforms such as Roblox, TikTok, Discord, and Snapchat. While these can be enjoyable and engaging, they also pose risks like exposure to inappropriate content, privacy concerns, and online bullying.

We recommend:

1. Reviewing the privacy settings on all apps and games your child uses.
2. Talking to your child about what is safe to share online.
3. Monitoring their interactions and the content they access.



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The Dark Web and Emerging Concerns:

While the majority of children will not encounter the dark web, it is important for parents to understand its potential risks. The dark web is a hidden part of the Internet that requires special software to access, often associated with illegal or harmful activities.

What Parents Should Know:

- **How it is Accessed:** The dark web is not accessible through standard browsers like Chrome. Tools such as Tor are required, making access intentional rather than accidental.
- **Risks:** The dark web can expose users to illegal content, unregulated marketplaces, and harmful communities.
- **Awareness:** If your child shows interest in terms like “dark web” or related software, it is essential to have an open conversation and ensure appropriate online safeguards are in place.

For further guidance:

- [Internet Matters: Guide to the Dark Web](#)
- NSPCC: Online Safety

Parental Controls and Tools:

Ensure parental controls are set up on all devices in your home. Some useful tools include:

- Google Family Link
- [Apple Screen Time](#)
- Internet Matters

Useful Guides for Parents:

- [ThinkUKnow](#) – Age-specific advice for online safety.
- NSPCC Online Safety
- [Parent Zone](#) – Help with navigating the digital world.

Reporting Concerns

If you ever have concerns about your child’s safety or wellbeing, please do not hesitate to contact us. Alternatively, you can reach out to external support services:

- **Childline:** 0800 1111
- **NSPCC Helpline:** 0808 800 5000
- CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) – Report online abuse or exploitation.

Thank You

Thank you for your continued support in creating a safe and nurturing environment for our children. Together, we can help our young people thrive in a rapidly changing world. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Kind regards,



Mrs H. West, Executive Headteacher for Oaklands Schools
& Mrs E. Daly, Safeguarding Lead, Corvus Learning Trust