

# THE LINK ACADEMY TRUST SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

*Spring Term 2018*



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Dear Parents,

The Link Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our children and as such we aim to provide information and materials for parents and carers that you may find interesting and useful. It is important that schools and parents work together to protect children and for us all to remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.





## Training

In addition to statutory safeguarding courses that Heads and senior staff members undertake, we also make sure that training occurs in our weekly staff meetings. Teachers are kept up to date with changes to key documents, they discuss different safeguarding scenarios to ensure that everyone would know what to do if they were concerned about a child and they learn about key strategies such as Prevent or Operation encompass. Even though Safeguarding cases may be infrequent, this 'little and often' approach to training ensures safeguarding is always high on the agenda and helps to prevent becoming complacent.

We have also recently undertaken Level 2 training for the many volunteers who come in to our school and also for our Governors. This training covers safeguarding procedures, scenarios and what happens when a referral is made to the Multi Agency safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Our lead safeguarding governors, Anna Neville and Yvonne Short, have both attended Level 3 training, which focuses on the specific responsibilities of key safeguarding personnel

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## Safeguarding Audits

All schools are required to complete an audit of their safeguarding systems and procedures, which helps us to identify our strengths and weaknesses. In addition to this, we have an external auditor come in and check everything from our site security to our record keeping.

All six schools have been audited in the last 12 months and we continue to improve our systems and review our practice, so that we can be sure every one of our schools has safeguarding children as a key priority. The Executive Principal, Governors and Directors review all the audits and produce a Trust safeguarding action Plan which is then closely monitored.

**One of the areas highlighted in several of our schools has been problems with car parking and traffic issues at the start and end of the day.**

**Unfortunately the schools do not have adequate car-parking areas and with the narrow lanes there is a lot of congestion at peak times. We will be taking advice from Devon Highways and the local Community Police Officer, but in the meantime we politely request that parents park responsibly and take great care when driving near to the school.**

## Focus Item

### Change for Life

Back in 2009, the government responded to the rise in obesity by setting up the Change4Life advertising campaign. Change4Life aims to prevent people from becoming overweight by encouraging them to 'eat well' and 'move more.' Latest guidance suggests that children should be active for 60 minutes a day and consume less than 25 grams or six teaspoons of added sugar per day.

On the Change4Life website you can access food facts, healthy recipes, ideas for activities and sign up for a snack pack containing money off vouchers.

[www.nhs.uk/change4life](http://www.nhs.uk/change4life)

*Create,  
Connect and  
Share Respect  
A better  
internet starts  
with you.*



## Advice and Guidance

The internet is amazing - but the digital world is changing all the time so how can you make sure your child is staying safe? Our schools run on-line safety sessions with the children and we celebrate Safer Internet day - but if you would like to find out how you can help your child at home to keep safe on line, the links below will provide you with lots of good advice and resources you can use :  
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>  
<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

## Life in Likes

Life in Likes is the Children's Commissioners report into social media use and highlights the way children use social media and its effects on their wellbeing when they start secondary school. While 8-10yr olds use social media in a creative way to play games, this changes significantly as their social circle expands in Year 7. The report shows many children find social media hard to manage and they become increasingly anxious about their on-line image. For the full report, go to <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/life-in-likes/>

## Reporting safeguarding concerns

If you have concerns about a child please contact the Head of School who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead. All schools will display a poster which gives information about all the people you could contact should the Head of School be unavailable. This includes the School administrator who will also be able to help.

If you have concerns during the holidays, you are advised to speak to the Multi-Agency safeguarding Hub (MASH). <https://bcps.org.uk/images/documents/mash-parentsfactsheet.pdf>

Telephone number for MASH is 0345 1551071

Parents can also access support and advice through Child line 0800 1111

If you have any safeguarding questions or concerns, please see the Head of School, or contact me directly at Landscope House (Tel: 01803 762113)

*We must do more to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect in families facing adversity, says Peter Wanless.*

