



Learning Opportunities

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

January 2022

Advice for Parents and Carers

Welcome to our latest Safeguarding newsletter.

We aim to provide you with useful links, tips and the latest, relevant help and advice on issues we feel will be of importance to you.

If you would like any more information, please do not hesitate to contact the school



MoodSpark Is a website where young people aged 10-16 can learn how to look after their emotional and mental health and find ways to help them bounce back when life gets tough.

<https://moodspark.org.uk/>



Family Lives provides support for parents / carers when life becomes more complicated. They are able to provide support around family breakdown, aggression in the home, bullying, teenage risky behaviour and mental health concerns of both parents and their children.

Call for free and confidential advice on 0808 800 2222, email askus@familylives.org.uk, chat online or alternatively visit their forums or online advice.

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/confidential-helpline/>

Useful Websites

NSPCC - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Provides a range of information you need to keep children safe online

Young Minds - <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

A mental health charity for young people and their parents, making sure all young people can get the mental health support they deserve.

Our School website features a Safeguarding area which includes links to our policies and our parents / carers & visitors Safeguarding leaflet

<https://learningopps.org/safeguarding/>



You know your kids. We know media and tech.
Together we can build a digital world where our kids can thrive.

If you like many parents and carers are struggling to keep up with the media and tech your kids are using? Common Sense's Parents' Ultimate Guides can help keep you up to date and answer your questions about all the latest titles and trends. Whether you're trying to figure out if a new app is safe for your teen or if a popular game includes blood and gore, They've got it covered.

WHAT IS GATCHA LIFE?



Gacha Life is a roleplaying and story board creation game. Users can create storyboard scenes, add text bubbles, props, and backgrounds on Gacha Studio. Gacha life has a rating of 9+ on the Apple App Store and 'E' for Everyone on Google Play.

What are the risks?

The content in 'Gacha Heat' videos presents a risk to children and young people that is not immediately obvious to parents and carers unless they watch the entire video and inspect the narrative.

Themes of 'Gacha Heat' videos include racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, child sexual abuse and exploitation, fetish/kink/BDSM/incitement of sexual violence, 'shock core', glorification of suicide, terminal illness, incest (parent/child and sibling) and teacher/student relationships.

These themes can normalise abuse and harmful sexual behaviour among children and adults. 'Gacha Heat' content has been populating the general #Gacha and #GachaStory hashtags on TikTok which exposes children to the inappropriate content without it being sought out.

Top Tips & Advice

Ensure Google SafeSearch is enabled on your child's devices. It will help filter out any explicit material from initial searches and protect them. Learn how to do this by using the helpful guidance on Safety Centre.

Talk to your children and young people in your care about how they can block and report content or behaviour that upsets or worries them. NSPCC provide information on how to have those conversations.

EVENTS

Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 8 February 2022

At Learning Opportunities, we believe that everyday should be safer internet day.

Safer Internet Day is celebrated in over a 140 countries - the theme this year is All fun and games? -

Exploring respect and relationships online.

Children's Mental Health Week - 7-13 February 2022

The theme this year is Growina Toaether.