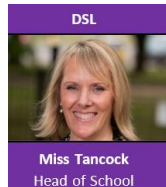




The Cambridge Primary School



Newsletter – Autumn 2 Issued 21st November 2025



Miss Tancock
Head of School

DSL contact:

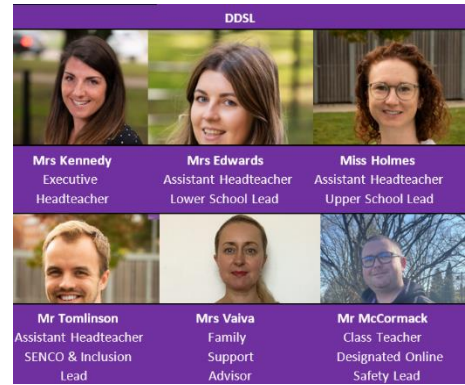
dsl@cambridgeschool.hants.sch.uk

Tel: 01252314884

Our Safeguarding Team

Our safeguarding team includes a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy Designated Safeguarding leads (DDSL).

The named safeguarding governor is Mrs Pitfield
chairofgovernors@cambridgeschool.hants.sch.uk



Mrs Kennedy
Executive Headteacher

Mrs Edwards
Assistant Headteacher
Lower School Lead

Miss Holmes
Assistant Headteacher
Upper School Lead

Mr Tomlinson
Assistant Headteacher
SENCO & Inclusion Lead

Mrs Valva
Family Support Advisor

Mr McCormack
Class Teacher
Designated Online Safety Lead

In this issue:

- British Values spotlight – Democracy
- Bullying-including Posters challenge!
- Christmas Safety
- Be bright be seen
- Helmets
- Online safety-Gaming

If you have any suggestions for our safeguarding newsletter or would like to know more information about any safeguarding topics, please contact: info@cambridgeschool.hants.sch.uk or speak to one of the safeguarding team.

Pick up

- No lone walkers after clubs. We will review for the summer term.
- Please keep the exit points clear at the end of the day so staff can supervise the children effectively. If you need to speak to your child's teacher, please wait until all children have been collected.

British Values Spotlight

WHAT ARE THE FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES?



As mentioned in the last edition, all schools actively promote British values to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain.

Spotlight-Democracy

At the Cambridge, the children learn about democracy within school as we:

- demonstrate how democracy works by offering opportunities for the children to take part in democratic processes. For example, voting for a class story or for representatives to join the school council.
- promote the importance of having your own voice and expressing feelings and opinions in a respectful way.

Bullying

What is bullying?

Bullying is a serious safeguarding concern that we take very seriously at The Cambridge Primary School. It's important that everyone in our school community understands what bullying is – and what it isn't.

Bullying is behaviour that is:

- Repeated over time (not a one-off incident)
- Intentional – meant to hurt, harm or humiliate
- Involves an imbalance of power – the person being bullied finds it hard to defend themselves

It is crucial to understand that a one-off incident is unkind and upsetting, but it is not bullying. However, all unkind behaviour is taken seriously and addressed appropriately.

Bullying can take many forms, including:

- Physical bullying (hitting, kicking, taking belongings)
- Verbal bullying (name-calling, insults, teasing)
- Social bullying (excluding someone, spreading rumours)
- Cyber-bullying (using technology to hurt or embarrass someone)

Our approach to preventing bullying

Our policies

We have a comprehensive [Anti-Bullying Policy](#) that sets out how we prevent, identify and respond to bullying. We also have a [child-friendly version](#) of this policy so that all our pupils can understand their rights and responsibilities. Both versions are available on our school website.

Teaching children about bullying

Through our PSHE curriculum, we teach children:

- What bullying is and how to recognise it
- The impact bullying has on individuals and our school community
- How to respond if they experience or witness bullying
- The importance of respect, kindness and inclusion

In our assemblies, we regularly discuss the concept of being 'upstanders'. We encourage children to:

- Speak up when they see unkind behaviour
- Support friends who may be experiencing difficulties
- Report concerns to a trusted adult
- Be part of the solution, not the problem
- How children can communicate concerns

Communication

We know that it can sometimes be difficult for children to speak up about bullying or other worries. That's why we have several ways for children to share their concerns:

- 'I Wish My Teacher Knew' books – All classes have these special books where children can write down anything they'd like their teacher to know, including worries about bullying or friendship issues.
- Trusted adults – Children can speak to any member of staff they feel comfortable with, if they have any worries.

What to do if you're concerned about bullying

If your child tells you they're being bullied, or you suspect bullying:

- Listen carefully to what your child tells you and reassure them they've done the right thing by telling you
 - Contact school immediately – speak to your child's class teacher or email lower or upper school
 - Keep a record of incidents, including dates, times and what happened
 - Work with us – we will investigate thoroughly and work in partnership with you to resolve the situation
- Remember: All concerns are taken seriously, and we will always take action to keep children safe.

Working together

Preventing bullying is everyone's responsibility. By working together – staff, parents and children – we can create a school community where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.

Together, we can make sure The Cambridge Primary School is a place where kindness always wins.

Anti-Bullying Poster Challenge!

We would like the children to help spread our message that bullying has no place at The Cambridge by inviting all children to design a poster that:

- Shows what it means to be kind and respectful
- Reminds everyone that bullying is never acceptable
- Encourages children to be upstanders
- Celebrates our diverse and inclusive school community

Details: Posters should be A4 in size and include a positive message about preventing bullying. They can be created using any materials such as paints, pencils, collage or be a digital design.

The deadline is Friday 5th December.

The posters will be displayed around school. We can't wait to see your creative ideas!

Staying Safe at Christmas

Please see the advice from the Child Accident Prevention Trust about staying safe at Christmas.

Click the links below to take you to the relevant pages:

[Dangerous gifts to avoid this Christmas](#)

[Toy Safety](#)

[Toy Safety Resources-Learn about dangerous toys](#)

[Buy safe toys online](#)

[Keep children safe this Christmas-6 simple tips](#)



Be Bright Be Seen

Now that the clocks have gone back and the dark nights are drawing in, it's important to consider keeping safe when out in the dark.

One easy thing to do is encourage your child to wear something bright that shows up in the dark. This is the idea behind the Department for Transport's 'Your Time to Shine' event that is happening today.

There are some great ideas for talking to your child about road safety on the [Child Accident Prevention Trust](#) website and the government [Think!](#) website including a [be bright be seen online game](#).



5 top tips on how to BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN

- 1** Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
- 2** If you're out and about when it's dark wear reflective items to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
- 3** Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.
- 4** If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
- 5** Of course, 'Being Bright' helps drivers to see you but that won't guarantee that you keep safe. You still need to make sure that you stop and look in all directions for traffic every time you cross.

General Guidance

Helmets

1. Wear it always

Helmets should be worn every time a child is cycling, skateboarding, scootering, to prevent serious injury from falls or crashes.

2. Check the fit

A helmet should fit snugly and sit level on the head, covering the forehead. Use the two-finger method to check the tightness of the chinstrap – no more than two fingers should fit between the chin and the strap.

3. Fasten the strap

The chinstrap must be buckled and snug for the helmet to be effective.

4. Look for safety standards

Ensure the helmet meets relevant safety standards, such as the BS EN 1080 (for children) or EN 1078 (for adults) in Europe.

5. Check for damage

Regularly inspect the helmet for any damage, as a compromised helmet will not provide adequate protection.

We have noticed an increasing number of children cycling or scooting to and from school without helmets. Please ensure your child has a helmet and remind them to put it on before they start travelling.

Children should wear a properly fitted, safety-standard certified helmet for activities like cycling, scootering and skateboarding to prevent head injuries.

See the [Road Safety factsheet from ROSPA](#) and the [guidance on finding the right size helmet](#) for your child.

Who to contact if you are concerned about a child

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the DSL Team via the school office info@cambridgeschol.hans.sch.uk

For general concerns about a child's safety: Contact Hampshire Children's Services at 0300 555 1384 during office hours or 0300 555 1373 out of hours.

Online Safety

A Message from Your Designated Online Safety Lead - Mr McCormack

Hello everyone,

Online gaming is one of the most popular activities for pupils today. It can be a great way to relax and connect with friends, but it also comes with risks. Many games allow players to chat with strangers, which can lead to pupils being exposed to inappropriate content or pressured to share personal information.

And yes, we know it feels early to mention Christmas - but as the festive season approaches, many pupils will be getting new games or consoles. This makes now the perfect time to think about online safety.

Why is this a concern?

Young people often seem to know far more about technology than adults - but rarely do they think about online safety. Gaming is social, and pupils will often want their own space when they play. This usually means moving devices into bedrooms or private areas.

At first, this might feel harmless. However, when technology is allowed in bedrooms, it effectively invites strangers into that private space. Many games include voice or text chat, and pupils may feel more relaxed and less supervised in their own room. Over time, this can lead to:

- **Unmonitored conversations** with strangers
- **Sharing personal details** without realising the risks
- **Exposure to inappropriate content** or harmful behaviour

The shift from gaming in shared family spaces to private rooms can happen gradually - and with it, the level of risk increases. Pupils may not recognise when a conversation crosses a line, and parents may not be aware of what's happening.

Examples of Games with Chat Features:

- Fortnite – Battle game with voice and text chat
- Roblox – Creative platform where pupils interact in user-generated games
- Minecraft – Multiplayer servers often include chat functions
- Call of Duty – Includes voice chat in team-based play

Key Advice for Parents and Carers:

- Keep devices in shared spaces – Bedrooms should be tech-free zones for gaming
- Check privacy settings – Restrict who can contact your child and disable open chat where possible
- Talk openly with your child – Encourage them to tell you if they feel uncomfortable online
- Remind your child never to share personal details – Such as their name, school, or location
- Use parental controls – Most consoles and games have tools to manage communication

Need Help?

If you would like support setting up parental controls or want to discuss online safety further, please contact the school. We are happy to arrange a meeting and help you make gaming safer for your child.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat