![St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School logo]

Welcome to this week's SMRT Safeguarding Update...

WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

Online Safety: Tutoring

This Wake Up Wednesday is focussed around a specific online issue we are experiencing an increasing trend in, as students are preparing for exams.

We understand that students want to find ways to revise and seek extra online tutoring or advice to support them. In particular, we are finding students using 'TikTok tutors' and on-line 'Tutors' who are not qualified and who use video gaming and typical teenage past-times as ways-in to engage and then further sell online tuition/support to students. These tutors are often not qualified, do not have a degree and use AI to inform their 'teaching'.

While there is an educational impact to this kind of TikTok surface level AI tutoring, the more concerning aspect is that there is little-to-no safeguarding of these influencers/tutors, many of whom may have ulterior motives.

Please can parents/carers have conversations with their children to ensure what they are accessing is agreed by their SMRT teachers or from a reputable source and not unknown adults who may seek profit or be aiming to groom children.

Below are some general tips on how to stay safe online but please ask your children, particularly in Year 10 and Year 11 about what they are accessing to support them in their studies online.

How Can I Safeguard Children Online?

Parents can actively safeguard children by implementing these strategies:

Privacy and security settings – enable strong privacy settings on social media accounts and online platforms. Ensure devices and accounts are protected with strong, unique passwords and updated security software. Set up parental controls including blocking inappropriate content or limiting screen time and use tools like BT Parental Controls, Sky Broadband Shield, or Virgin Media Web Safe in order to filter harmful websites. You should review privacy settings on apps and social media platforms to ensure your child's account is private and location tracking is off.

Teach critical thinking – show children how to verify the credibility of information and recognise fake news or malicious links. Explain the importance of being cautious about what they post and share.

Block and report – teach children how to block users who harass or threaten them online and report harmful content. Familiarise them with reporting features on various apps and platforms.

Collaborate with schools and communities – work with schools to understand their online safety programmes and initiatives. Join parent groups or forums to stay informed about emerging risks and trends.

Know the apps and platforms they use – regularly review the apps and websites your child accesses to ensure they are age-appropriate. Stay updated on new platforms and understand their potential risks and benefits.

By combining education, supervision, and open communication, parents can create a safer online environment while empowering children to make responsible choices.

https://saferinternet.org.uk/

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

https://www.internetmatters.org/

As always, if you have any immediate concerns about safeguarding issues, students, or the school site, please get in touch via:

safeguarding@smrt.bristol.sch.uk