



**At Summerhill School we are committed to Safeguarding our children and young people as well as promoting positive well-being for all.**

This Safeguarding newsletter, aims to help staff, parents and students alike to be aware of the safeguarding and mental health issues, giving you useful links and resources to use if you have concerns. If you have concerns or ideas for future topics please do not hesitate to contact us on the main school number 01384 816165 or via email on [studentssupport@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:studentssupport@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk)

## Kooth & Wysa

Young people ages 11-18, who live in Dudley or attend a school/college in Dudley have access to KOOTH, an online service specifically designed to support young people's mental wellbeing. Wysa is a mental health app that Black Country Heath NHS Foundation Trust has commissioned to give you a safe, anonymous and non-judgmental space where you can talk about anything and everything that's bothering you. you'll get full access to all of Wysa's self-help tool pack free for 12 months when you download it

## ESPORTS

The first-ever esports tournament took place in 1972, and today, tournaments like 'The International' boast multi-million-dollar prize pools. On average, children between the ages of 11 and 18 play esports for three and a half hours a day, either at home (94%) or at a friend's house (40%). The growth financially and in popularity is evident but are you aware of what esports is and the associated safeguarding risks? While esports presents exciting opportunities, it's essential to consider and understand the trends, risks and threats within the wider esports arena. Exposure to inappropriate content, concerns about in-game purchases resembling gambling mechanics, Online interactions posing risks such as grooming, Time commitments affecting daily routines, The emotional impact from competition outcomes, Sponsorship influences, especially from energy drink companies. If you would like to read more please follow this link - [ESPORTS](#)

## Increase in Child Neglect

New data shows recorded offences of adults neglecting, mistreating, or assaulting children have doubled over the last 5 years. Concerns that the number of child cruelty offences is increasing steadily year on year. Our analysis of Freedom of Information data from police forces in England has found there were 29,405 offences recorded between April 2022 and March 2023, increasing from 14,263 offences recorded between April 2017 and March 2018. These figures come after a series of court cases into the deaths of babies and children, including 18-month-old Alfie Phillips, whose mother and partner were found guilty of his murder last week. A well-resourced and effective child protection system, that identifies risks to children as early as possible and is able to take swift action, is vital to help improve the lives of children and young people. What to do if you're worried about a child, If you're concerned about a child's safety or wellbeing, please contact our helpline by emailing [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) or by calling 0808 800 5000. We also have pages on our website with information about different types of abuse including neglect. [Child Neglect](#)



**Mrs Sprouting**  
Designated  
Safeguarding  
Lead



**Mr Randle**  
Deputy  
Safeguarding  
Lead



**Ms Gordon**  
Deputy  
Safeguarding  
Lead



**Mr Quirke**  
Deputy  
Safeguarding  
Lead



**Mr Cresswell**  
Deputy  
Safeguarding  
Lead

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SMART TVs

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

From Netflix to Disney+ to Prime Video, there is a plethora of streaming services available. While these services offer content catering for younger viewers, they also provide material for more mature audiences. If you don't have parental controls set up on your accounts, your child could find themselves being exposed to shows and movies with adult themes, strong language and violence.

### INCREASED SCREEN TIME

The array of content available through smart TVs could lead to your child spending excessive amounts of time in front of the screen. Not only can prolonged screen time distract from important activities such as schoolwork or exercise, but experts have also warned that endless hours in front of the box can lead to health problems including obesity, poor sleeping patterns and depression.

### REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL

Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate digital purchases: buying a new app or the latest season of a favourite show, for example. If your child has access to a bank card and isn't restricted by spending controls on the system, they could run up a sizeable bill through a smart TV fairly quickly – especially if they're not quite old enough to fully appreciate the value of money.

### UNCONVINCING SECURITY

As Internet of Things (IoT) devices, smart TVs can be uniquely vulnerable to attack. Experts warn that internet-enabled TVs tend not to support high-level security software, so you won't always be able to download strong antivirus programmes like you would on a phone or computer. Being targeted by hackers could be deeply upsetting for your child, as well as putting their personal data at risk.

### A SILENT SPY?

Some smart TVs already collect data on users' viewing habits and then display targeted advertising based on that personal information – while there have also been reports of internet-enabled TVs (and the apps installed on them) being used to 'eavesdrop' on owners. In models with a built-in microphone (for voice activation), third parties could potentially listen in on someone's home life.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Many smart TVs can be used for web browsing, social media and live streaming – all of which could allow unknown users to contact your child (or vice versa). If your child engages with these functions of the TV, a stranger could potentially discover their contact information and potentially then use it to obtain even more sensitive personal details, such as your home address.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### MAKE IT A FAMILY THING

Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.

### SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.

### CREATE CHILD PROFILES

Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs: from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different settings to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content.

### CONSIDER THE LOCATION

If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.

## Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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