



## Safeguarding Newsletter—Spring Term 2 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a good half term break.

All staff at Belle Vue have a responsibility to safeguard children but just a reminder to you that we have the following designated staff in place with responsibility for safeguarding:

Mrs. C Davies—Designated Safeguarding lead  
Mrs. S Richardson—Deputy Safeguarding lead  
Mrs. A Perrett—Deputy Safeguarding Lead  
Mrs. C Mulligan—Deputy Safeguarding lead

Governor responsible for safeguarding: Mrs. A Potter and Mrs S. Rose

If you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of a child/children please contact the school immediately on 01384 389900 or email [info@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk). **During holiday time, please email safeguarding concerns to:** [safeguarding@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk)

**If you suspect a child is in immediate danger please ring 999.**

### Vaping among young children

The supply of disposable vapes has exploded in the last 18 months which includes non-compliant versions being sold in shops within our local area. The child appealing design of the packaging and the fruity flavours have made vaping more appealing to children and we are hearing more and more of primary age children using these outside of school. What is more, the knock on effect of the popularity of vaping amongst children is that perpetrators of child sexual exploitation and abuse are giving vapes to individuals as part of their grooming tactics. If you know of any local businesses selling vapes to underage children, please report this to the police so that this can be shared with the regional intelligence unit.

### Parenting Smart (Place2Be)

The children's mental health charity, Place2Be, has a website aimed at helping parents with typical situations they may experience with children. Advice can be found on over forty topics including:

Understanding sibling rivalry

My child is lying, what does it mean, what should I do?

My child has trouble going to sleep

My child says, 'I hate you!'

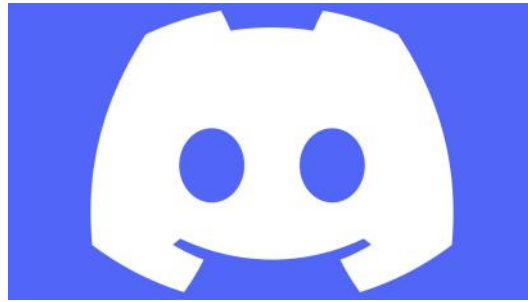
Cultural identity: who am I?

The Parenting Smart website can be found here:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>



Improving  
children's mental  
health



## Discord

Discord is a social networking app used by gamers to chat to each other. There can be in app purchases through Discord's premium subscription service. The minimum age to access Discord is 13. The Apple App store rates it as 17+. Discord is made up of servers, which are spaces for groups to chat, upload files and share images etc.

Anybody can set up a server and they can either be public or private. Users can video call and send direct messages to other individuals or groups. Children who play online games such as Fortnite may use Discord to chat about the game (rather than the game's own chat facility).

### What do I need to be aware of?

We always encourage you to chat to your child to see why they use different apps/websites and ensure that they know how to block users and what to do if they see any inappropriate content. It is important to be aware that Discord does include video/voice calling which cannot be filtered. Discord is used by an array of users and therefore adult content can be found on Discord as well as inappropriate language. Discord have produced this article, which answers common questions:

<https://discord.com/safety/360044149591-answering-parents-and-educators-top-questions>

### Is your child ready for social media?

Childnet have produced this article answering your questions around social media, such as when should I allow my child to join social media? The article also outlines some alternative sites that have been created for younger children.

For more information click the link below:

<https://www.childnet.com/>

### Safer Internet Day 2023

Children learnt about Safer Internet Day before we broke up for half term. We regularly teach children ways to keep safe online. Please talk about this with your child and make sure you know what games they are playing and importantly, if communicating with others online, know who they are talking to.

#### WHEN?

Safer Internet Day takes place every February

