



## St .Peter's Church of England Primary School, Heswall

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*firm foundations, shining bright*



### Fortnightly Newsletter

#### What's been happening in school?

Firstly, thank you to all the parents, carers and family members who have been able to be a part of our Christmas celebrations this year. Whether that has been through attending one of our services, outfitting children in a range of costumes, practising songs and lines or any combination of all of those things, thank you!

As we approach the Christmas, it is often a time for reflection. In school, we are blessed with a dedicated, hard working staff who always put the children first and at the fore, and I would like to express how fortunate we are to have such a staff team to guide, support and care for the children in our community.

We also appreciate the support and good will of our families too, who are often keen to help walk children to church, help out with readers, or attend events that raise valuable funds. A mention must also be made at this point to the fantastic Friends of St Peter's, who give up so much of their own time to put on events and raise funds for the school! Alongside this, our Governors and the Heswall Parish all make valuable contributions to the life of our school—thank you.

Lastly, our incredible, amazing children! They fill us with pride and amaze us all on a daily basis! Merry Christmas to all, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2024!

#### Online Safety

Attached is a newsletter from the National College, this time providing parents with the relevant information regarding the online safety act, recently passed in October this year.

Also to the right is the age requirements for different social media and communication apps – we hope the information is useful to our families.



#### Attendance:

Our attendance for the first term of the school year was **95.9%**. We have dipped as we have entered cold and flu season, but our attendance does remain high. As mentioned, school attendance remains a priority for the Department for Education post-covid and is closely monitored by the DFE—keeping pupil attendance high at St Peter's is further evidence that, at St Peter's, we want to excel in every area!



# What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools ...

## WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

### HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

### ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

### MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

### HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

### NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

### REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

### AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

## What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

### KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

### REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

### WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

### UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

### ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

## Meet Our Expert

Luke Ramsden is Senior Deputy Headmaster and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the TES (among other journals) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named Pastoral Leader of the Year at the National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.





## Staffing Updates

As you will be aware, this week we have said goodbye to Miss Williams, who is moving on to her new position working at Wirral Met. Miss Williams has been a wonderful member of our school community and a wonderful teacher to a huge number of our children in her time at St Peters—we will miss her but at the same time happy to see her make the next step in her career.



We are pleased to share that we have been successful in appointing Miss Ciara Doyle as the class teacher in Y1/2W from January. Miss Doyle joins us from Thornton Hough Primary School, so is already familiar with the communities in our area of the Wirral. Miss Doyle has been in school this week and working alongside Miss Williams, getting to know the children in the class. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Miss Doyle to our school community. You can find a little more about Miss Doyle below.

*Hi, I'm Miss Doyle. I am very excited to be joining the Key Stage 1 team St Peter's in January. I have recently moved from Thornton Hough Primary. Outside of school, I enjoy bouldering and (occasionally) training for my first half marathon! I look forward to meeting everyone properly in January!*

**We are hiring to join our team!**  
**Senior Supervisory Assistant**  
Contract: Permanent  
Part Time/Term Time Band C  
Hours: 13.75 hours per week. 38 Weeks per year.

Ensuring a positive lunchtime experience for all  
Application forms for the above post are available  
online at [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk) and  
also from the school office.

**TEAMWORK**

## New Play Equipment Update

We have had the installers of our new play equipment out to evaluate the blue grassed area edging. We have been advised that the blue flooring has been incorrectly laid, and so the company will be coming back out to relay the flooring in the new year. We know how frustrating this is for the children, as we want to see the children enjoying the new equipment too!

We hope this can be resolved as soon as possible, and thanks to Mrs Adams who has been determined in ensuring that the equipment is installed to the standard we expect for keeping our children safe. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

## Diary Dates:

Please see below for a brief overview of key dates over the next two weeks.

[Monday 8th January—School open](#)

[Week beginning Monday 8th January—Y3/4 swimming.](#)

Kind regards,

Michael Parry

Website: <http://www.stpeters-heswall.wirral.sch.uk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/heswallstpeters>

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Year 5/6 delivered a wonderful church carol service on the evening of Monday 18th December. Thank you for braving the cold night to lead us in our carols!

Lots of D&T in school this week, with Y5/6 making cookies and pizza! Delicious!! Well done everyone!







We really enjoyed our delicious Christmas lunch this week. We are so very fortunate to have a wonderful and dedicated chef and an equally fantastic and nurturing mid-day team.

#it'sChristmas!

#teamwork

#sproutsareyummy

5/6SC enjoyed drawing and painting self portraits inspired by either Picasso, Kandinsky or Munch. They displayed our PETERS value of Effort brilliantly #art #creativity





## Parade

"O sweet Child of Bethlehem,  
grant that we may share with all our hearts  
in this profound mystery of Christmas.  
Put into the hearts of men and women this peace  
for which they sometimes seek so desperately  
and which you alone can give to them.  
Help them to know one another better,  
and to live as brothers and sisters,  
children of the same Father.  
Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and purity.  
Awaken in their hearts  
love and gratitude for your infinite goodness.  
Join them all together in your love.  
And give us your heavenly peace. Amen."

— Pope John XXIII



— Merry —  
Christmas