



7th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Safeguarding our Pupils

Etone College
www.etonecollege.co.uk

As we begin the new academic year, we would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers of our commitment to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of every child in our school.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we believe that the strongest safeguarding arrangements are built through a partnership between school, children, parents and the wider community.

The Department for Education's updated statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026, came into force on 1 September 2026. The guidance sets out the responsibilities schools have for protecting children and promoting their welfare.

There are a number of updates and areas of increased emphasis in the 2026 guidance. These include:

- **Online safety and emerging technology:** Schools are expected to recognise the increasing safeguarding risks associated with children's use of technology, including artificial intelligence (AI), manipulated or AI-generated images, online harassment and harmful online content.
- **Child-on-child abuse:** The guidance reinforces that children can experience harmful behaviour from other children both inside and outside school, including online. This can include bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, image-sharing discriminatory, and other harmful behaviours.
- **Mental health and wellbeing:** Schools should remain alert to children who may require additional support with their mental health and recognise when emotional or mental health difficulties may become safeguarding concerns.
- **Children's safety beyond the school gates:** Safeguarding concerns can arise at home, in the community and online. We therefore work with families and other agencies to identify concerns early and provide appropriate support.
- **Information sharing:** KCSIE continues to emphasise that appropriate information sharing is an important part of keeping children safe. Data protection should not prevent information being shared where this is necessary to safeguard a child.

One of the most important messages from the updated guidance is that children can be at risk of harm both **online and offline**, and that these risks can overlap. Technology is now a significant part of many safeguarding and wellbeing concerns. As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a high-quality Personal Development (PD) curriculum, we have made some updates to ensure that pupils receive age-appropriate education on key topics, in line with current statutory guidance and national expectations.



Etone College
Leicester Road
Nuneaton
Warwickshire
CV11 6AA



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Academy Trust
EDUCATION WITHOUT EXCEPTION

024 76 757300

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Online safety – working together. We encourage parents and carers to:

- Talk regularly and openly with your child about what they do online.
- Know which apps, games and social media platforms your child uses and check their age requirements.
- Make use of parental controls and privacy settings.
- Encourage children not to share personal information, passwords or images.
- Remind children that they should tell a trusted adult if something online makes them feel uncomfortable, frightened or pressured.
- Be particularly alert to online grooming, exploitation, bullying, sexual harassment and the sharing of inappropriate or intimate images. Some of the signs to look out for are, becoming unusually secretive about devices, receiving messages or gifts from unknown people, having new online “friends”, or becoming distressed when asked about online activity.
- Talk to your child about the responsible and safe use of **AI**, including the dangers of creating, sharing or requesting manipulated or sexualised images of others.

Where can parents and carers get help?

If you are worried about something your child has experienced, please do not wait until the situation becomes a crisis. Your first point of contact can be your child's Head of House or our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

There are also a number of organisations that can provide advice and support:

Warwickshire Family Connect

Family Connect brings together children's social care, information and advice and partner agencies. If you have a concern about the safety or welfare of a child, you can contact 01926 414144. In an emergency, always call 999.

Warwickshire Family Information Service

The Family Information Service provides information, advice and support for families, including parenting support and access to local services.

Nuneaton and Bedworth safeguarding support

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council provides safeguarding information and advises that concerns about a child should be reported through Warwickshire Family Connect on 01926 414144. If a child is in immediate danger, call 999.

Useful online-safety resources

- **Warwickshire County Council – Cyber Safety:** practical advice about keeping children safe online, parental controls, online harms, AI and additional support.
- **Internet Matters:** guidance on apps, games, social media, parental controls and age-appropriate online safety.
- **CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection):** advice and support if you are concerned about a child's online safety, including online grooming and sexual exploitation.
- **National Cyber Security Centre:** advice on protecting your family, devices, accounts, passwords and personal information.
- **NSPCC:** advice for parents about online safety, bullying, social media and supporting children's wellbeing.



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Warwickshire County Council has brought many of these resources together in its online **Cyber Safety** guidance.

If you have a safeguarding concern, **please speak to a member of our safeguarding team.** We will listen, take concerns seriously and follow our safeguarding procedures.

Our current safeguarding team is:

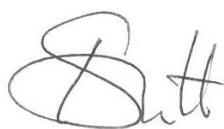
Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs R Price

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s): Mrs J Harris

If you would like any further support or guidance, please visit our school website, where you can access a range of online resources and sources of support. We also encourage you to read our monthly Mental Health and Wellbeing Newsletter, which provides updates on the work we are doing in school to support, educate and promote the wellbeing of our young people.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our children safe. By working together, sharing concerns early and helping children develop safe and responsible behaviours both online and offline, we can create the safest possible environment for every child.

Yours faithfully



Mr I Smith
Headteacher



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