



SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER



Autumn Half-Term Two 2025/26

We are rapidly approaching the end of this term, and there is still a lot to look forward to in the final week. This half-term, students have celebrated Anti-bullying Week, Interfaith Week/Islamophobia Awareness Month, and Road Safety Week. Next week, we will be holding PRIDE assemblies and celebrating student success across many areas!

This newsletter contains some information about support available over the holidays, including the HAF programme and mental health services. Please also see below for details of how to access a food parcel from school, should you require one.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday.
Kind regards,
Ms Jones and the Keep Kids Safe team.

KEY NUMBERS

Anyone can contact the services below directly, regardless of whether you are a child, parent, carer or a member of staff. If you have a safeguarding concern, please ensure you pass it on: safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

01925 443322 (Option one, followed by option one) Warrington Multi-Agency Gateway (MAG) For urgent safeguarding concerns about a child	01925 444400 Out of Office Emergency Duty Team For urgent safeguarding concerns about a child outside of office hours	0808 800 5000 NSPCC For adults who are worried about a child
0800 1111 Childline For children who are worried about their own safety or need some advice	101 Police Non-Emergency For reporting any crimes or concerns	999 Emergency Services For anyone in immediate danger (including if you are worried about the immediate risk to a child)



Keeping Kids Safe



Young Carers

Young carers are children who provide care to a family member with physical disabilities or mental health difficulties. Young carers may take on responsibilities such as helping a family member with personal care, household tasks, managing medication, or providing emotional support. This can be parents, carers, siblings or extended family.

It is estimated that approximately one in five children are young carers, however the true figure is not known, as many children/families do not realise that they meet the criteria for being a young carer.

In school, we would like to ensure that all children who have caring responsibilities are identified and supported appropriately. Ms Burns is our young carer champion, and does a wonderful job at supporting our children with caring responsibilities; for example, holding lunchtime drop-ins and running fun activities such as Christmas card making and badge designing. Ms Burns will be hosting a breakfast event for our young carers on Friday 12th December, which all young carers are encouraged to attend.

Ms Burns will also meet with each young carer and create an individualised profile for the child. The profile includes an overview of their responsibilities, and any adjustments we need to make for them in school. We will also complete referrals to Warrington Carers Hub if the child and the parent/carer consent to this.



Identifying Young Carers

If you or a family member has any kind of disability, long-term illness, mental health condition, or substance misuse problem, and your child helps with tasks such as cooking and cleaning (or any other responsibility, e.g. administering medication), they are classed as young carers. If this is the case, it is important that school are aware of this so that the appropriate support can be put in place. Once we are made aware that a child is a young carer, Ms Burns will meet with them and explore if there are any adjustments or support measures that we can put in place e.g. extended homework deadlines, or lunchtime phone calls home.

Warrington Carers Hub



Warrington Carers Hub are a fantastic service who offer support for both children and adults with caring responsibilities. When children are identified as young carers, we will offer them a referral into the service. Further information about their offer can be found at the

end of this newsletter, and also on their website: [Warrington Carers Hub](https://www.warringtoncarershub.org.uk/). There is a QR code on the below poster, should you wish to refer yourself as a carer.



Support Services



Holidays Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Bookings are now live for the winter HAF programme. The scheme is accessible to any child aged 5-16 years who is entitled to free school meals. There are spaces available at a reduced rate for those children that are not eligible for benefit related free school meals.

Each local programme will provide delicious, healthy meals, allow kids to get active, help them learn new things, make friends and have fun. Activities include sports camps, cinema tickets, a pantomime performance, SEND clubs, and much more. Children are able to attend four sessions between 22nd December 2025 – 6th January 2026.

For those who require support but do not wish to attend activities, there are meal boxes available so that the family can cook together in the home. To see what is available and book a place, please visit: [HAF sessions booking](https://warrington.gov.uk/haf).



Food Bank

We have a number of food parcels available for collection from school, should any families require one before the end of term. If you would like to arrange collection of a food parcel, please contact Ms McKittrick by emailing smckittrick@padgateacademy.co.uk.

Mental Health

We understand that this time of year is particularly difficult for a lot of people. School are always here to help where we can, however below are some services who can provide mental health support when needed:

[Samaritans](https://www.samaritans.org) are a listening service available to anyone at any time of day or night. They can be contacted by calling 116 123 or emailing jo@samaritans.org.



[ANDYSMANCLUB](https://www.andysmanclub.org) are a men's suicide prevention charity, offering free to attend peer-to-peer support groups across the country and online. Their group meets every Monday at 7pm. The nearest venue to school is at Padgate Community Centre, however other venues are available.



[Papyrus](https://www.papyrus-uk.org) are an organisation who aim to reduce the number of young people who take their own lives, by providing support for anyone under the age of 35. Their helpline can be accessed by phoning 0800 068 4141, texting 88247, or email support can be accessed by emailing pat@papyrus-uk.org.

If you or a family member are in a mental health crisis, you can access support by calling the NHS number 111. If there is an imminent risk of harm, call 999 for immediate assistance.

We hope you have found this newsletter useful. For further safeguarding information, please visit the school website: <https://padgateacademy.co.uk/safeguarding>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
7

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Upscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



**Warrington
Carers Hub**

Do you have a family member,
friend or neighbour who cannot
manage without your support?
Then we may be able to help you



Get in touch

Opening Times: Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Telephone: 0300 303 0623 (calls charged at local rate)

Email: enquiries@warringtoncarershub.org.uk

Website: www.warringtoncarershub.org.uk

Address: Freepost Warrington Carers Hub

f Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/WarringtonCarersHub



Supporting those that care

n|compass
towards a brighter future



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Borough Council

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