

Stanway Safeguarding Newsletter Autumn 2

Tik Tok Now Release

TikTok has released a new feature within their app called 'TikTok Now'. Safety experts from INEQE have investigated what TikTok Now is and if there are any safeguarding concerns.

What are TikTok Now's Safety features?

- *By default, TikTok Now posts are private and only shown to friends and followers.*
- *The option to show to everyone is not available to users under 18 years old.*
- *To 'protect against unwanted interactions', TikTok say people between 13- to 15-year old will only be able to post comments on their friends' photos or videos.*

What are the Safeguarding risks?

- *Pressure from peers*
- *Oversharing*
- *FOMO*
- *Weak age verification*
- *Interactions with strangers*

For more information see <https://ineqe.com/2022/>

Know About: HiPal

A recent study by the Co-Op Foundation found that 95% of children and young people admitted to occasionally feeling lonely. So it's easy to understand how networking apps like HiPal – with the tempting lure of massive amounts of 'exciting' new people to befriend and interact with online – have become hugely popular.

Successfully turning someone's phone into a walkie-talkie for instant audio communication, it offers the possibility of quick contact with new friends which should ring alarm bells for most parents but is clearly having a considerable amount of appeal for younger users.

Features including photo sharing and private conversations are available to children as young as 12, HiPal has attracted concerns around its use as a potential platform for sexting.

For more information see:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5808ca482994caba2736e6d7/t/6390b0b6b0c4e669d7afbdf8/1670426810240/HiPal+-+What+Parents+Need+to+know.pdf>

Vaping Info and Support

Teachers are concerned about the growing trend amongst their students: "A recent survey of 3,000 found half have caught a pupil vaping in school in the last year, and one in five teachers said they'd caught a pupil as young as 11 with a vape," says the BBC.

Chief executive of charity ASH Deborah Arnott believes more needs to be done by social media platforms to stop glamorising the use of vapes saying it is "completely inappropriate" and calling for them to take responsibility and "turn off the tap."

For more information from this article see:

<https://www.speedmedical.com/news/posts/vaping-a-growing-concern-in-secondary-school-aged-children>

If you are worried about your child vaping the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service or your GP will be able to refer you on to cessation support. For more information see:

<https://essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk/service/healthy-family-service/stopping-smoking/>

County Lines Parents Info

County lines is when gangs and organised crime groups exploit children to transport and sell drugs, traditionally between big cities or across county boundaries. More recently this is seen locally and within boroughs or even streets..

The children have dedicated mobile phone 'lines' for taking orders for drugs; children are used as they are less likely to be stopped by police, allowing adult dealers to avoid the risk of arrest.

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation; this occurs where a person or a group of people takes advantage of their contact with and influence over a young person to coerce or manipulate them into carrying out a criminal act.

There is an excellent parental resources available through Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership:
https://cscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/4206_1-County-lines-leaflet-final-web.pdf

Andrew Tate Twitter Return

Andrew Tate is back on Twitter. After first being banned from the platform in 2017, the social media personality - who's been banned from most other platforms for misogynistic comments - had his Twitter account restored on Friday. He's since amassed 1.5 million followers.

Tate was largely unknown until this year, when his profile exploded. Then, in August, he was banned from the full gamut of social network including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Tiktok; dealing a painful blow to his Hustler's University online business.

The full article can be accessed here:
<https://www.cnet.com/culture/andrew-tate-is-back-on-twitter-heres-why-hes-still-banned-almost-everywhere-else/>

If you wish to educate yourself further on Andrew Tate to approach open and insightful conversation with your children, use this factsheet to support:
<https://www.risk-avert.org/media/4765/andrew-tate-factsheet-risk-avert.pdf>

Recent Assemblies

Our recent assemblies have focussed on Discrimination Through History and Diversity and Kindness. These were delivered by Mrs Wadsworth and Mr Baidoo respectively.

We feel it is important to share these with you so you can see what we have been talking to our students about, and so you can continue these conversations at home, with the ultimate aim of making our school and local community a more positive, accepting, and inclusive place to be.

Our Discrimination Through History assembly can be accessed here:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1tQJITyOjzSoWpDIPzFjZOEDdsWyavmYn92d-Sz6O2l/edit?usp=sharing>

Our Diversity and Kindness assembly can be accessed here:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1VfxHVS6WoYxN-OZW6vuj6f7dSR9A_cr2qW3liH4DI0/edit?usp=sharing

New Support Cards

We have recently created a bank of support cards for our students which are available in the Year Offices, Hubs and LRC. These have a QR code on the front which students can scan to access lots of online support. You can access these below:

Sexual harassment and assault:

[Support Card Links - Sexual Harassment & As...](#)

Domestic abuse:

[Support Card Links - Domestic Abuse](#)

LGBTQIA:

[Support Card Links - LGBTQIA](#)

Drugs and sexual health:

[Support Card Links - Drugs & Sexual Health](#)

Bereavement:

[Support Card Links - Bereavement](#)

Wellbeing:

[Support Card Links - Wellbeing](#)

Food and Heat Banks

We understand amidst the current cost of living crisis in the UK, that Christmas might be a difficult time for some of our families this year. We are keen to support you as much as possible to ensure you family is safe, happy, and comfortable at this time of year.

Colchester Foodbank has a number of locations around Colchester that are there to help with supplies. For more information visit:

<https://colchester.foodbank.org.uk/>

They are also always looking for support with donations of money and food, and also volunteers.

For ways you can get involved visit:

<https://colchester.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/>

Colchester Borough Council are also working with organisations across Colchester to develop a map of welcoming warm spaces where you can go if you are unable to heat your home, whilst also enjoying a mixture of support and activities. To view these locations visit:

<https://www.colchester.gov.uk/supporting-colchester/residents-old/warm-spaces/>