

# GAA Families' Safeguarding Newsletter

February 2025

Welcome to Great Academy Ashton's safeguarding newsletter for parents and carers. We send these out every half term and they are also available on our website.

We hope you find it useful and welcome any feedback you might have.

## Safer Internet day – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025

### How to keep you & your loved ones safe online!

Safer Internet day on 11<sup>th</sup> February this year is a good time to think about how to spot, respond to and report all types of scams online which may target anyone, including young people. Use these top tips to keep you and your loved ones safe online.



### **Enjoy going online together and talk regularly about your family's online lives:**

Spend time online with your child to understand how they are using technology and talk together about the good and the bad parts of being online. Talk about your own experiences and find other opportunities to get the conversation started, like stories in the news. Make sure your child knows they can talk to you about anything that they see or experience online.

### **Take online security measures seriously**

The internet can be a tool used by criminals to target their victims, but a few [simple steps](#) can help keep you and your accounts secure. Use [strong and separate passwords](#) for online accounts and [set up two step verification](#) (2SV) where it's available. You may also be able to [set parental controls](#) to prevent unwanted online purchases and limit children's access to harmful content.

### **Look out for warning signs that someone or something online cannot be trusted**

"It just seems too good to be true!" – Other common signs of a scam include contact that you weren't expecting or being asked for money or personal information (think: bank or contact details, passwords, or phone numbers). Scammers use [other tactics](#) to manipulate their victims into paying, like playing with your emotions, or building a sense of urgency so you are rushed into making a decision. If you aren't sure it's reliable, don't risk it.

### **Remember that anyone can be a victim of a scam**

Scammers are good at what they do and will target anyone. We all need to stay vigilant and support those who are most vulnerable including children and the elderly by helping them recognise what to look out for. If anyone in your family has been scammed, talk openly about it.

### **Know where to get help if something goes wrong** [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

If you or someone you know has been the victim of a scam online, you're not on your own. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, you can report fraud and cyber crime online to [Action Fraud](#) or by telephoning 0300 123 2040. You may also be able to report via social media, if the scam has taken place there or to another relevant organisation, like your bank, if you think your account is at risk.

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## **NEW nicotine trend - So, what is SNUS?:**

Traditionally, snus refers to a form of moist smokeless tobacco widely used in Scandinavian countries, where it is placed between the lip and gum. Modern snus includes tobacco-free nicotine pouches, which deliver the same addictive substance without the traditional tobacco base. These pouches are discreet, odourless and often resemble chewing gum or mints, making them harder to spot than vapes. Despite the absence of tobacco in some snus products, the nicotine content can be alarmingly high.

**Some pouches contain double or triple the nicotine of a pack of cigarettes. The risks include dizziness, nausea, gum irritation, receding gums and an increased likelihood of addiction.** Prolonged use can lead to significant oral health issues, such as gum disease and tooth loss. Some studies have seen evidence of negative consequences for the developing brain. For students already vulnerable to peer pressure, the risk of addiction can spiral quickly.

Celebrities and athletes has amplified its popularity among young people. High-profile footballers have been spotted using nicotine pouches, and TikTok influencers often promote the products under the guise of sharing personal habits.

Relationships are a natural part of growing up and meeting a first 'intimate' partner will often occur within the school environment. However, much of the relationship will often take place over social media platforms which can lead to individuals engaging in sending or receiving explicit images, without thinking ahead of the potential consequences. This is increased among school aged individuals, as they are unable to make mature decisions which leaves them particularly vulnerable to impulsive actions.

**Childline** has built a new tool designed called **Report Remove** which helps young people under 18 in the UK to confidentially report sexual images and videos of themselves and remove them from the internet. For more information see click on the link [Report Remove | Childline](#)



## **Reporting a safeguarding concern**

If you are concerned about the welfare of a student, please contact a member of GAA's safeguarding team:



Rachel Gill  
Designated  
Safeguarding  
Lead (DSL)



Kayleigh Davies  
Deputy DSL



Michelle Hughes  
Deputy DSL

via [admin@gaa.org.uk](mailto:admin@gaa.org.uk) or tel: 0161 241 9555

★ Thank you for reading. ★