

Friday 1st December

Dear Parents and Carers,

🌟 A huge congratulations to our remarkable Year 11 students for starting their mock exams this week! Remember to take some well-deserved rest over the weekend alongside some gentle revision.

🕯 Today marks the beginning of the Advent season for the Christian community. Wishing all those who celebrate a peaceful and reflective season ahead.

👥 Don't forget, next week we have our Parent Carer Support Group meeting. Your participation means a lot to us; we hope to see many of you there.

✉ Kindly ensure the return of the rewards trip and Christmas lunch letters by next week. Your timely responses are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Warm regards,

Louise.

Our value this half term is

TOLERANCE

Our vision:

To provide a safe, enriching and nurturing environment, with wellbeing at its heart; where children and young people, can learn, gain confidence and thrive.

Our values:

To promote **resilience**, **self-confidence**, **tolerance**, and **respect**

Our aims: 'Building confidence for the future'

TIPS FOR REVISION



[Help your child beat exam stress - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Ashley College Parent and Carer Support Group - 6th December 9:30 – 10:30

Our next session will run at the above date and time. Please come and contribute to this safe space which will be supported by our school therapist Amanda. We will also be delivering a session on "Post 16 Options".

Out of Hours Family Support Helpline

Providing families in Brent with access to a Barnardo's family support worker during evenings and weekends
0800 158 2358
brentfamilysupport@barnardos.org.uk

Believe in children
Barnardo's



The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country.

We want to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting.

This is your chance to tell key policymakers what is important to you ahead of the general election. Take part now and ensure your needs are reflected in the decisions that will affect you in years to come.

Scan the QR code to take part



CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition




Brent Youth Forum

If you are aged 14 to 25 years with a Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) join our online forum.

Our next session takes place on Tuesday 28 November, from 6 to 7.15pm, in this session we are interested in hearing about the best way for us to communicate with you.

This is an opportunity to give your opinion on what you want to see, do and experience in Brent. Join the session on Microsoft Teams by scanning the QR Code or clicking [HERE](#)

If you have any queries please contact Natalie Bissah at Natalie.bissah@brent.gov.uk and 07920 834819

 

If you would like to request this information in a different language or format, such as accessible PDF, large print, easy read, BSL, audio recording or braille, email design@brent.gov.uk or call 020 8937 1234.

Here to listen: our safeguarding team



Designated safeguarding lead (DSL): **Louise Togher**
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WEEKLY E-SAFETY ADVICE – information for parents/carers

Protecting children 🛡️ Blocking illegal material 🚫 Removing harmful content on major platforms 📱

Those are the three main goals of the Online Safety Act, which entered UK law in October. While demanding more accountability from social media companies in particular, the act revises – rather than replaces – the current digital safeguarding duties placed on schools.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonline.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

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 Ramadan 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.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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