



Designated Safeguarding Lead

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Keeping children safe

Railway safety

Network Rail are in touch with school on a frequent basis reporting trespassing on the railway line. We therefore share railway safety with the children during assemblies or during lessons. Being located so closely to the railway line it's really important that we are all aware of how to keep safe. Here are some important reminders.

Railway Station Safety


Railway stations are very busy places, especially during rush hour when hundreds of people are trying to get to and from work. Everyone needs to follow a few simple rules in order to stay safe.

<p>Be Aware of the Doors! Do not try to stop train doors from closing as your hand may get stuck. Train doors do not always open automatically.</p>	<p>Stay off the Tracks! If you drop something on the tracks, leave it. Never climb down onto the tracks as you may not always hear an approaching train.</p>
<p>Keep Your Distance! Trains travel at incredible speeds and some trains travel through stations without stopping. Always stand behind the line on the platform so that you don't get pulled in by the force of a passing train.</p>	<p>Mind the Gap! There is often a very large gap between the station platform and the train. This can be particularly difficult for young children or the elderly to manage.</p>

Dangers of Trespassing

Trespassing is when someone enters another person's property without permission. It is against the law to trespass on the railway and can result in a £1000 fine.

This is with good reason, as it is extremely dangerous to trespass on the railway. Trains travel so fast that they cannot stop in time, even if they see someone on the tracks. Every year, people (many between the ages of 11 and 18) are injured, sometimes fatally, as a result of trespassing on railway tracks.



Added to this, the growing presence of electric trains on our railways brings further dangers.

Overhead Power Lines and Conductor Rails

Electricity reaches electric trains via overhead cables and conductor rails (third rails). These are extremely powerful and dangerous.

Overhead lines have 25 000 volts of electricity passing through them. This is 100 times more powerful than the power supply to an average home.



75 volts of electricity runs in a conductor rail and hidden, buried cables have 25 000 volts.



The temperature of an overhead power line is 5000°C! This is hot enough to melt iron.



How to Stay Safe

To stay safe around railways, follow these simple rules:

- 1. Stay off railway tracks:** never walk on tracks, even if you think they are 'off'. There are tracks buried underground that you may not be able to see which carry a high voltage of electricity.
- 2. Do not fly kites or balloons near overhead power lines:** you do not just have to be holding a power line to receive an electric shock. If a kite or balloon gets caught in a cable, the electricity can travel down the string and into your body.
- 3. Read warning signs:** there will be many signs warning you of the dangers around a railway. Do not ignore them as they are there to keep you safe.
- 4. Use level crossings:** these are designed to allow you to cross a railway line safely. Never ignore the signs and never try to take a shortcut instead.

Safeguarding Reminders

Drop off and Collection

Please remember if you are late on a morning please bring your child to the school office and do not send them through the playground as the doors into school may possibly be locked.

If you are going to be late collecting your child at the end of the day, please inform the school office at the earliest possible moment.

The KS2 children are reminded by school staff that if at the end of the day, nobody has come to pick them up, they must tell the member of staff who has brought them outside, who will then take them to the office. If they cannot find a member of staff outside they must go to the office or find their class teacher inside. Please can parents remind their children of these rules.

There is currently no legislation about at what age children should be walking to and from school

unaccompanied, however, at Hopton we believe that no children in Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Year 3 and 4 should walk to or from school on his or her own or be left on their own on the school premises either before or after school.

Some of our older children in Year 5 and 6 have started coming to and leaving school on their own and we believe that you as parents need to decide whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking to and from school alone.

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk to school you should assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence. Work with your children to build up their independence while walking to school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness. There are many ways you can prepare your child to make an independent journey. Children who are driven to school do not have the opportunity to develop road awareness and are therefore more vulnerable when they start to walk to school independently.

Walking to school is a great opportunity to learn road safety skills. The best way to do this is to walk with your children from a young age, teaching them about crossing the road, learning how to navigate and a host of other skills. This helps them gain the experience and confidence to deal with traffic and way finding on their own, in preparation for walking with friends or alone when they are older.

Teach your child to:

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.
- Always cross at the intersection where there are traffic lights; do not cross in the middle of the road. Alternatively cross in a place where you can see clearly in all directions. Avoid parked cars or bends in the road.
- Look both ways before crossing; listen for traffic coming; cross while keeping an eye on traffic.
- Look out for cyclists.
- Remember that drivers may not see them, even if they can see the driver.
- Remember that it is hard to judge the speed of a car so be cautious.

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility you might want to consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to walk straight home?
2. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend?
3. Are they road safety aware?
4. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
5. Would they have the confidence to refuse to do what a stranger asked?
6. Would they know the best action to take if a stranger tried to make them do something they did not want to do?
7. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
8. Would they know whom best to approach to get help?

We do ask that if you are allowing your child to walk to and from school alone, you formally let us know by either sending a message to their class teacher on Classdojo, emailing the school office or emailing Miss Suzanne Henderson (suzanne.henderson@kirkleeseducation.uk)

Online Safety

Online Safety with Google

As part of Google Families, Google have a hub of resources that you can use including conversation starters with links to additional tools and advice and information about parental controls. Google also provide you with resources to help your children build healthier habits and stay safe online. There is also a selection of ideas on how to use technology as a family in a fun and engaging manner such as exploring the world and learning how to code.

You can access the hub here:

https://families.google/intl/en_uk/

Being Kind Online

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they wouldn't if they were face to face with each other. Talk to your child about how they are speaking to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect and kindness, like they would if they were face-to-face.

Dr Linda Papadopoulos (Internet Matters Ambassador) provides tips on how you can help your child to be kind online in this YouTube video such as teaching them how to be inclusive and think about how they would like to be treated online themselves:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BqKi3J7g6Q&t=9s>

Ensure that your child understands that if they receive unkind messages (or see something that worries them) then they should not reply or engage in conversation with them, but that they should tell a trusted adult. You can use the tools within an app to report any offensive or hurtful content as well as block people so they cannot contact you again in the future.

UNICEF have a comprehensive area on their website, which talks about what Cyberbullying is and how to stop it:

<https://www.unicef.org/end-violence/how-to-stop-cyberbullying>

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 www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

STAY SAFE ON NEW DEVICES

Whether you're an internet newbie or a pro at surfing the web, it's always important to keep online safety in mind. We've pulled together a list of top tips to make it easier for you to protect yourself and your devices in the digital world - helping you steer clear of hazards like misleading information and vicious viruses. There's never a bad time to refresh your internet safety knowledge, but it's an especially smart thing to do before you start using any shiny new devices!



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