

Wood End Park Academy

Local Concerns - April



Hillingdon – Updates

Weapons

The Hillingdon local authority are raising awareness around weapons, which look like day-to-day objects and can be easily concealed. Please be mindful of items your child may be interested in or say others may be carrying. Such weapons can be found very easily on sites such as Ali Express, Amazon, WISH and eBay too.

Female Serious Youth Violence (SYV)

There is an increase of children and young people of the female gender subject to serious youth violence. Recent data has shown an increase by **over 10%** for the 2021/2022 period. The areas of concerns for females where SYV occurs are currently: Uxbridge, West Drayton, Eastcote and Hayes.

Current Affairs

The situation in Ukraine is hugely worrying. Whilst we are geographically far away from the events, many in our schools and communities will be affected and may have families or roots in the region. The news and social media feeds are filled with the latest information, and some of it is very upsetting; and may not even be verified. Children listening and viewing distressing images can become frightened and fearful.

Here is a useful website to support you with discussion with your child:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/>

Keeping Children Safe Online

Hillingdon would like to raise awareness in social media Applications (apps) being used by children. The digital world is evolving daily with new social media platforms, apps, and devices. Undesirable effects include: grooming, cyberbullying, sexting, posting hateful messages or content and participating in negative group conversations.

Hillingdon have been informed of the app 'YUBO' formally known as 'Yellow' which is being advertised as a dating app for under 18s. The app is being referred to as 'Tinder for Teens'. Pitched towards teenagers and young adults aged 13 to 17, the app allows users to create video livestreams with up to 10 friends. The app heavily promotes live streaming as the primary chat method, allows chat groups to be set up with no filter on content or topics along with features very similar to apps like "Tinder" such as swiping left/right on profiles for people in your area. There have been reports of sexual offences after meetings arranged through this app, and concerns are raised due the content young people can be exposed to using it



What can you do at home to keep your child safe?

- Parental locks and filters
- Monitor the use of internet at home-in a public place in your home
- Limit time on the internet
- Check browsing history on search engines regularly
- Talk to your child about e-safety

We will discuss e-safety with the children at school but it is important your child uses their IT safely at home too.