Safeguarding Newsletter 9

Autumn Term 2026

Welcome to our latest safeguarding newsletter. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and there are some simple things that we can all do to help keep children safe both in and around school and when they are using technology at home.

Children and class WhatsApp groups

As children grow older, friendship groups sometimes create WhatsApp chats linked to their class or year group. These can feel like a natural extension of playground friendships, but conversations outside school can affect relationships and wellbeing in school the next day.

WhatsApp has a minimum age of 13 in the UK. Primary-aged children should not have their own WhatsApp account. Even when a group is described as a "class group", it is not a school-managed communication channel.

What about "kid-friendly" messaging apps?

Some messaging apps are promoted as child-friendly and may offer parent-managed contacts, restricted features or extra moderation. These safeguards can be helpful, but no app is completely risk-free. Children can still experience exclusion, unkind comments, pressure to respond or arguments that spill into school.

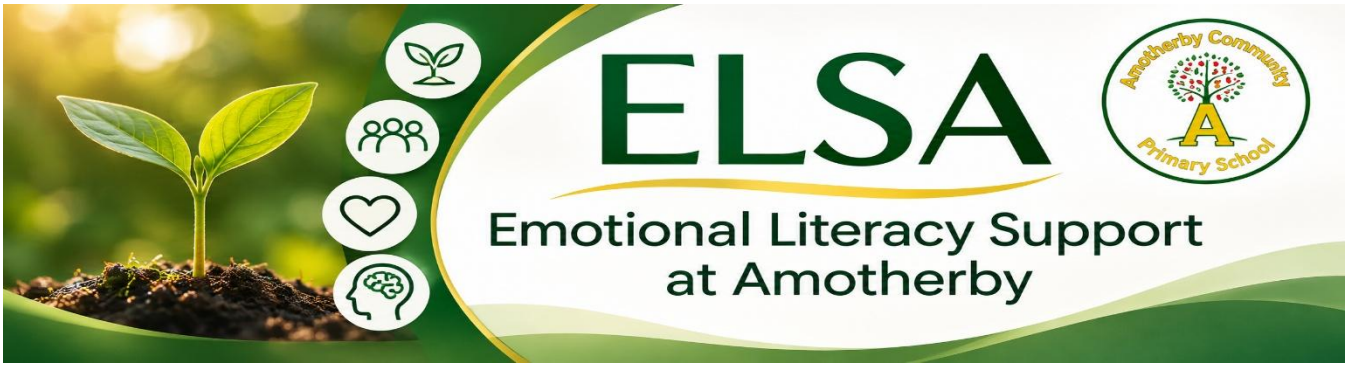
Before allowing any messaging service, check its age requirements, privacy settings, how contacts are approved, whether group chats are permitted, and how children can block or report concerns. A child-friendly label does not replace adult supervision.



How families can help

- ✓ Talk regularly about who your child communicates with and how online conversations make them feel.
- ✓ Agree clear rules about group chats, respectful language, sharing photographs and when devices are put away.
- ✓ Keep devices in shared spaces where possible and check privacy and contact settings together.
- ✓ Remind children not to forward hurtful messages or images and never to share personal information.
- ✓ Encourage children to leave upsetting chats, save evidence where appropriate and tell a trusted adult rather than replying in anger.
- ✓ If a group chat is causing problems between children, please let school know so that we can support those involved.





We are pleased to continue our Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) provision in school this year. Mrs Cox delivers this support, with Miss Cooper overseeing the provision. ELSA offers children a supportive space to develop their understanding of emotions and learn practical ways to manage everyday challenges.

Sessions may focus on recognising and expressing feelings, building friendships, developing confidence and self-esteem, managing worries, or coping with change. Support can be tailored to an individual child or delivered in a small group, depending on their needs.

This is a valuable addition to our school because children learn best when they feel safe, understood and ready to engage. ELSA gives pupils time to practise emotional and social skills, develop strategies they can use in the classroom and playground, and build greater independence. It also strengthens the support we can offer before smaller worries become bigger difficulties.

ELSA is a targeted, school-based intervention rather than counselling or specialist mental health treatment. Where a child needs further support, we will work with families to consider appropriate next steps. If you feel your child might benefit, please speak to their class teacher or Miss Cooper.

Keeping children safe and supporting their wellbeing is something we all share responsibility for. Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a safe, caring and positive environment for all our children, both in school and online.
As always, if you have any concerns, however small, please do get in touch. We are always happy to listen and help.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Wade