



Helena Romanes School - Primary
SAFEGUARDING UPDATE
Autumn 2 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Each half term we aim to bring you relevant help and advice on safeguarding issues we feel will be of importance to you. Teaching children how to keep themselves safe is a key part of our curriculum and we develop these skills through PSHE and computing lessons, assemblies and various events and visitors across the year. You will see information at the bottom of the page about who to speak to if you have concerns about a child's safety or welfare. This half term we have also included some additional information about road safety as it is Road Safety Week from 19th – 25th November, as well as some tips to help celebrate Halloween and Fireworks night safely.

Road Safety

As part of Road Safety Week we will be talking to the children about how to stay safe when they are out and about. We will remind them about the importance of walking on footpaths where possible, making sure they cross at safe places where they can see traffic, and staying close to a grown up or holding their hand. We would also like to remind parents and carers that the speed limit on the school site is 5mph. We appreciate your cooperation in helping to ensure all our children stay safe.

Halloween Safety

Halloween can be lots of fun but here are some tips to make sure that everyone stays safe.

- Remember Halloween costumes can be highly flammable so keep well away from flames and heat sources
- Consider using a battery powered candle in your pumpkins
- Stay close to adults if out and about trick or treating
- Be careful when crossing the roads in the dark and stay on footpaths where possible



Safeguarding at Helena Romanes School

We are here to help



If you are feeling **sad**, **upset**, **hurt** or **worried**, please talk to our team.



Miss Knowles
Deputy Safeguarding Lead
worrybox@hrs.education



Mrs Hone
Designated Safeguarding Lead
worrybox@hrs.education

Fireworks Safety

Fireworks are exciting, but they can be very dangerous. Here is some safety guidance from the Child Accident Prevention Trust that you can share with your child to make sure they stay safe while watching fireworks.

- Stand at a safe distance from the bonfire and stay close to grown-ups
- Don't be tempted to throw things into the bonfire or poke at it with sticks
- Leave your dressing up clothes at home on fireworks night, wrap up warm instead
- Wear gloves if you hold sparklers and keep them away from your body

If you do catch your clothes on a flame: **Stop**, drop and roll
Stop what you are doing
Drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands
Roll over and over to put out the flames

Let's talk about...

SPEED

“

Slow traffic makes it safer for us to walk and cycle to school

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Every day, six children are killed or seriously injured on UK roads

25% of parents say traffic is too fast for their children to walk or cycle to school*

Whoever you are, however you travel, we need to talk about speed.



Join the conversation
www.brake.org.uk/RoadSafetyWeek
#RoadSafetyWeek

*Brake (2023) www.brake.org.uk/what-do-parents-think-about-their-childrens-journeys-to-school

ROAD SAFETY WEEK

Organised by
Brake
the road safety charity

Sponsored by
ARVAL
RDP PARIBAS GROUP

DHL

Supporting
AUTOGLASS

Supporting
THINK

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODER is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter ODERs. Some player-built Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is actually free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money. People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and some private or VIP servers also have a cost.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

PRIVATE SERVERS

If your child has genuine friends who they play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.

MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with others safely in the digital world.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/2133343/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-playing-virtual-parties-fortnite>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>



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