



Inside Kingshurst

Kingshurst's 'Starring' Role!

As part of the numerous initiatives taking place within the Academy, we are pleased to be working with the Star Foundation as part of the charitable work to collect clothing donations that are then sent on to the Ukraine and therefore are currently running a clothes bank in support of this.

We would therefore gratefully receive any clothing items (including coats, hats and gloves) to add to the collection from any students, parents or carers.

Any donation can either be dropped into Mr Jones in A029 (the fitness suite) or to Mrs Gibbs in the Visitors Reception.

As we move closer towards the Christmas period, our traditional food bank appeal will also take place as normal; keep your eyes out in a future issue for more details!



BCFC Foundation Kicks-Off at TGAK

Students returned from the October half term to find a new 'feature wall' within the main foyer of the academy sharing our



Key Dates:

- Monday 3rd Nov: **Start of Yr11 and Yr13 Mock Examinations**
- Friday 14th Nov: **End of Yr11 and Yr13 Mock Examinations**
- Thursday 27th November 2025—**Sixth Form Open Evening and Careers Evening (3.15—6.00pm)**
- Friday 28th November 2025 – **Trust INSET Day (no students).**

most recent partnership with the Birmingham City Football Club Foundation. Whilst we appreciate that the geographic location of the academy splits opinion as to which football team is followed by students and families, the additional capacity for mentoring and coaching offered through the appointment of two new members of staff through the foundation means that all of our students will benefit from this support moving forwards. Further information can be found at www.bcfcfoundation.com.

National Online Safety: Top Tips for Teaching Children Fire Safety



Whether it's during a major event like bonfire night or simply while using a heater on a chilly day, fire safety is a vitally important topic on which to educate children and young people. One mistake with fireworks, electronics or open flames can have catastrophic consequences: damage to property, serious injury or even worse. It's vital that we teach the children in our care how to protect themselves around fire and flammable materials in a mature and responsible manner. The guide on [page 4](#) offers expert advice on how to educate children and young people on fire safety, detailing what precautions can be taken to keep them as safe as possible when exposed to fire-related dangers. [CLICK HERE](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE
Secondary | November 2025

Please click on the following links to go to related page from this month's spotlight on safeguarding content:

- [Misinformation of conspiracy theories: CLICK HERE](#)
- [Unsupervised events: CLICK HERE](#)

In this issue:

- Misinformation and conspiracy theories
- Unsupervised events



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE

Secondary | November 2025

Helping young people think critically: misinformation and conspiracy theories online

Today's young people are growing up in a world where news, opinions and videos appear instantly - often before they've had time to think them through. Social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, YouTube and X (Twitter) are now where many children get their information about the world.

What's the challenge? Not everything they see is true. Some of it is misinformation (false or misleading information) and some are conspiracy theories - such as ideas claiming secret groups or plots are controlling world events. These can spread quickly online, often designed to shock, anger or persuade.

Why young people are drawn in

It's natural for children to explore big questions and look for answers. Online content that sounds bold or mysterious can feel exciting and convincing- especially when it's presented confidently or emotionally. Apps and algorithms can reinforce this by showing users more of the same kind of content they've watched before. For example:

- **TikTok** and **YouTube** use recommendation systems that can lead from harmless curiosity to more extreme or misleading videos.
- **Instagram** and **Snapchat** may spread rumours or fake stories quickly through friends' posts and private messages.
- **X (Twitter)** and **Reddit** often mix real news with speculation, which can make it hard for children to tell fact from opinion.

The more time children spend on these platforms, the more normal this flood of conflicting information can feel.

A shared responsibility

If our children are using social media, we can't control every video or post our children see, but we can teach them how to question and think critically about it. By staying involved, showing interest and keeping conversations open, parents and carers can help young people grow into informed, thoughtful digital citizens who can tell fact from fiction.

In this issue:

- Misinformation and conspiracy theories
- Unsupervised events

HOW PARENTS/CARERS CAN HELP

1. STAY CURIOUS, NOT CRITICAL

If your child mentions something unusual they've seen online, ask open questions: "Where did you see that?" or "What do you think about it?" Listening calmly shows you're interested, not judging or dismissing them.

2. TALK ABOUT HOW PLATFORMS WORK

Explain that social media apps want people to keep watching, so they show content that triggers strong reactions - even if it's misleading. Understanding how algorithms work helps children step back and think more clearly.

3. ENCOURAGE THEM TO CHECK SOURCES

Show your child how to look for information on trusted news websites or fact-checking pages like **Full Fact**, **BBC Verify** or **Newsround**. Ask: "Who made this?" and "What's their reason for posting it?"

4. SHARE YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES

Talk about a time you believed something online that turned out to be false. It helps young people see that anyone can be caught out and that being willing to question and correct yourself is a strength.

5. PROMOTE BALANCE AND PERSPECTIVE

Suggest following a mix of reliable sources - news outlets, educators and positive creators - not just influencers or accounts that share dramatic opinions. Remind them it's healthy to switch off and do things offline too.

In a world full of loud voices, the ability to pause, question and think is one of the most powerful skills our children can learn.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Staying safe at parties: helping young people make good choices

As children move through secondary school, their social life becomes a huge part of growing up. Parties, gatherings and sleepovers are where friendships deepen and independence grows, but they can also bring new challenges, especially when adults aren't around.

Unsupervised parties at a friend's house can seem harmless or 'normal', but without adults present, situations can quickly get out of hand. Alcohol, peer pressure and risky behaviour can all play a part, even when no one intends for things to go wrong.

The goal isn't to stop young people from socialising, it's to help them stay safe, make good choices and know they can always turn to you for help.

What makes unsupervised parties risky?

Even well-meaning plans can become unsafe when:

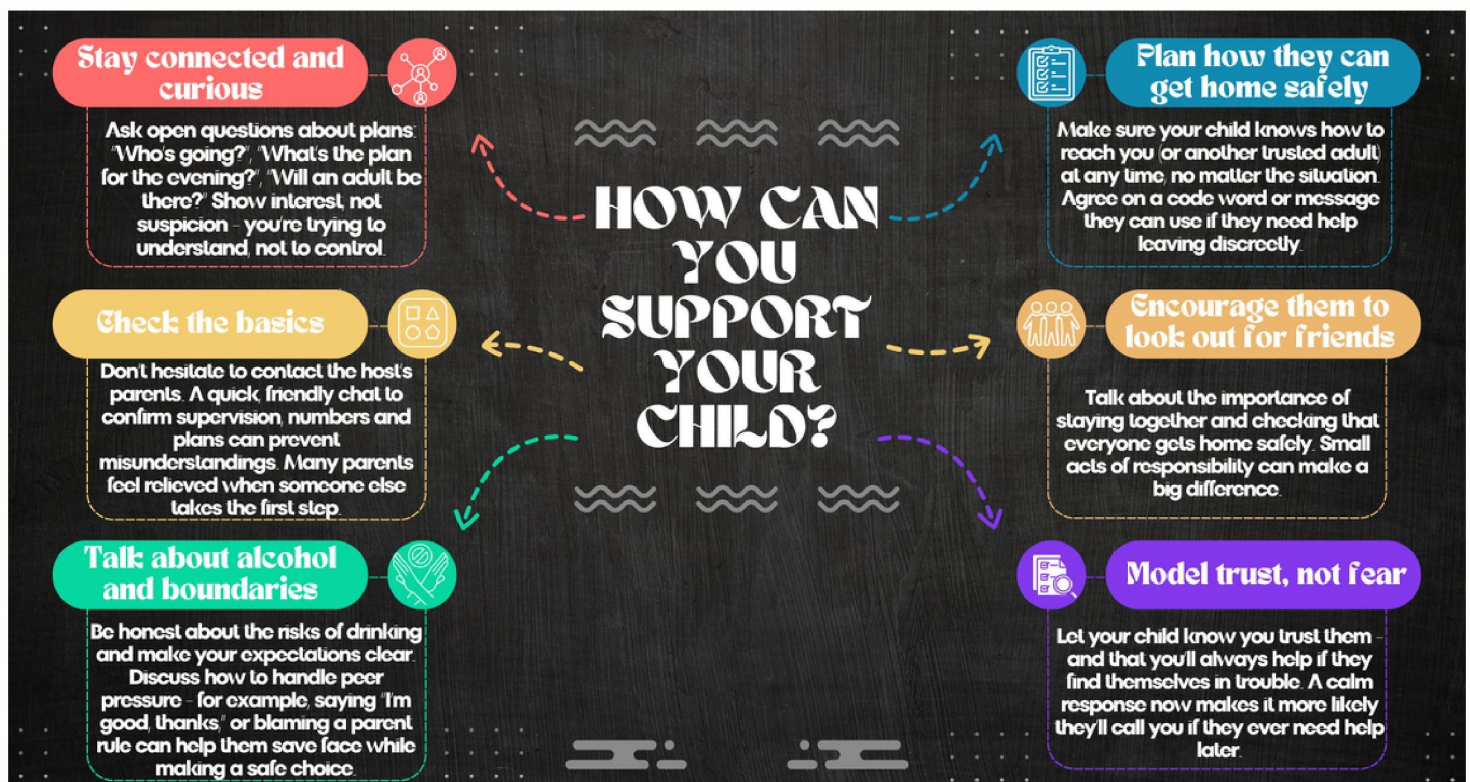
- alcohol or vaping is introduced
- word spreads on social media and far more people turn up than expected
- guests don't all know each other
- there's no adult to manage boundaries or call for help if needed
- peer pressure makes it hard for young people to say no.

Most young people want to do the right thing - they just need support, information and a plan.

What to do if you are hosting

If your child wants to have friends over, consider:

- Keeping the group small and supervised.
- Agreeing clear start and finish times.
- Keeping alcohol out of reach and monitoring any social media sharing.
- Being visible – even if you're just "around" in another room.



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators TEACHING CHILDREN FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety is especially important around Bonfire Night, as fireworks, bonfires and sparklers add extra risks for families and young children. Every year in the UK, thousands of accidents occur due to improper handling of fireworks and neglecting fire safety measures. This guide offers practical tips for keeping children safe when handling everything from fireworks to space heaters.

1 BONFIRE NIGHT AWARENESS

Bonfire Night is exciting, but it comes with several inherent risks. Educate children about the dangers of fireworks and open flames. Teach them that only adults should handle fireworks and that bonfires should never be approached. Keep children at a safe distance (at least five metres away) from bonfires and explain why supervision is crucial during these events.



2 SUPERVISE FIREWORK USE



Fireworks should only be handled by responsible adults who are following UK laws and guidelines. Make sure to buy fireworks that meet British Standards and adhere to all instructions that come with them. Keep children a suitable distance from any firework activity and designate an adult to supervise the event. Ensure no one goes near fireworks after they've been lit.

3 SPARKLER SAFETY

Sparklers are often captivating for little ones, but they can burn at extremely high temperatures – over 1,000 °C! Only allow children over the age of five to use sparklers, and make sure they wear gloves. Teach them to hold sparklers at arm's length and never wave them near others. Once a sparkler has burned out, extinguish it fully in a bucket of water – which you should prepare beforehand and always keep nearby.

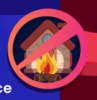
4 ORGANISED DISPLAYS ARE SAFER



If possible, families should attend an organised fireworks display rather than holding one at home. These tend to be far safer as they're run by professionals adhering to strict safety regulations. Organised displays also provide a controlled environment where children can enjoy the event from a safe distance, reducing the risk of accidents.

5 KEEP FIREWORKS AWAY FROM THE HOME

If you are hosting your own fireworks display, set them off well away from homes, sheds or fences to avoid starting accidental fires. Choose a wide-open space with no flammable materials nearby and keep a means of putting out fires to hand in case of emergency – such as a bucket of water, a hose or a fire extinguisher. Afterwards, ensure that all fireworks are fully extinguished and never attempt to relight one if it doesn't go off.



6 BONFIRE SAFETY



If you're building a bonfire, place it well away from trees, buildings, fences or anything else flammable. Make sure it's structurally sound and not at risk of collapsing. Only burn natural materials like wood and leaves, avoiding petrol or other accelerants. Children should be kept far away from the bonfire, and it should always be supervised by adults. Be sure to fully extinguish the bonfire before you leave it.

7 "STOP, DROP AND ROLL"



Ensure that children know what to do if their clothing catches fire. Teach them the simple "stop, drop and roll" technique, which can quickly extinguish flames. Practice this with them before events like Bonfire Night, so they feel confident if the need to use it arises. It can also be helpful to keep another means of putting out these kinds of fires on standby, just in case. An extinguisher or flame-retardant blanket are both sound choices.

8 SECURE CANDLES AND OPEN FLAMES



Beyond Bonfire Night, everyday fire safety is also crucial. Candles can be a common fire hazard, especially in homes with young children. Teach children not to touch any open flames, and ensure candles are placed in sturdy holders away from combustible materials. Never leave candles, incense burners or other such items unattended, and always extinguish them fully before leaving a room or going to bed.

9 EDUCATE ABOUT FIREWORKS HAZARDS

Make sure children understand the dangers of playing with fire or fireworks, and how to handle such things responsibly. Emphasise that fireworks are not toys and can cause serious injuries when improperly used. Demonstrate the importance of treating fire with respect and the consequences of misuse, which can help temper any curiosity and any resultant dangerous behaviour.

10 FIRST AID FOR BURNS

Even if you have the best possible precautions in place, accidents can still happen. Keep a first aid kit on hand. Ensure you know how to apply basic first aid to burns, so you can teach children those techniques too. If someone suffers a burn, run it under cool water for 20–30 minutes. Never use creams or ointments, as these retain heat and can cause further damage. Instead, seek medical help if the burn is serious.



Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings and many other industries, helping them to maintain a safe working environment.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fire-safety>

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