



Caring for each other as we live, learn and grow in God's love.

NEWSLETTER

March 2025

DIARY DATES

Weekly Mass: Sacred Heart and St John Bosco Church - 9:30am every Sunday. All are welcome.

Easter paste / pace egg competition & raffle - Wednesday 9th April

Easter craft pop-up shop - Thursday 10th April after school & Friday 11th April before school

Easter Mass - Thursday April 10th @ 10AM

Break up for Easter Holidays - Friday 11th April 1pm

PE Days 2024-25

Nursery / Reception: Monday

Year 1: Tuesday & Wednesday

Year 2: Tuesday & Thursday

Year 3: Tuesday & Friday

Year 4: Tuesday & Friday (swimming)

Year 5: Monday & Thursday

Year 6: Monday

Attendance

Reception	93.75%
Year 1	98.18%
Year 2	94.67%
Year 3	94.33%
Year 4	94.78%
Year 5	95%
Year 6	94.62%

As of September, no holidays will be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any holiday over 5 days will also be subject to a referral for a penalty notice. Lateness and absences must now be closely monitored too. There have been a number of children being collected early - please note that we are required to see a letter, email or text as proof of appointments.



DON'T FORGET!

1pm pick-up
FRIDAY 11TH APRIL



stjohnboscosunderland.org.uk



office@stjohnboscosunderland.org.uk



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EASTER

PACE EGG COMPETITION & RAFFLE

Bring your egg designs into school in the morning for display in the hall. The school council will judge them and announce the winners!



WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL 2025



EASTER RAFFLE!

Bring £1 per child to enter the Easter raffle with lots of prizes to be won - chocolate eggs, easter craft packs, teddies etc.



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YEAR 5 POP-UP SHOP

Our Year 5 children are taking part in Virgin Money's 'Make £5 grow' project. They've been making lots of Easter crafts to sell next week and are hoping to raise lots of money for school equipment. <https://www.make-5-grow.co.uk/>

EASTER

Pop-up Shop

Our Year 5 entrepreneurs will be selling a range of homemade Easter crafts next **Thursday 10th April after-school** and next **Friday 11th April before school**. There'll be Easter pom-pom chick decorations, bracelets, sweet bags etc. Suggested prices 50p - £2.



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NUMBER DAY



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TOY DONATIONS WANTED

As mentioned previously, we're really trying to improve our playtime experience in school and are encouraging children to get involved in creative, imaginative play.

If you have any good condition, unwanted toys, we'd be grateful to give them a new home. We're thinking of toy cars, action figures, dolls, ride-on vehicles (non-electric), arts & crafts materials, bracelet making kits, dinosaurs etc.



BISHOP STEPHEN WRIGHT

The bishop of our diocese, Hexham and Newcastle, Stephen Wright is coming to visit our parish church, Sacred Heart & St John Bosco on **Sunday April 6th at 9:30am**. It would be fantastic if our families could support our church by attending mass that day.



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THE BIG LENT WALK

£77 raised so far!

We're taking part in The Big Lent Walk, please sponsor us! The link can be found pinned to the top of our Facebook page. Each day, classes across the school are heading out for a walk around the school grounds and we are aiming to walk over 200km by the end of Lent.

<https://donate.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-john-bosco-sunderland-fundraising-page/>

Your donations can change lives. Every £1 raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.



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SAFEGUARDING

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!

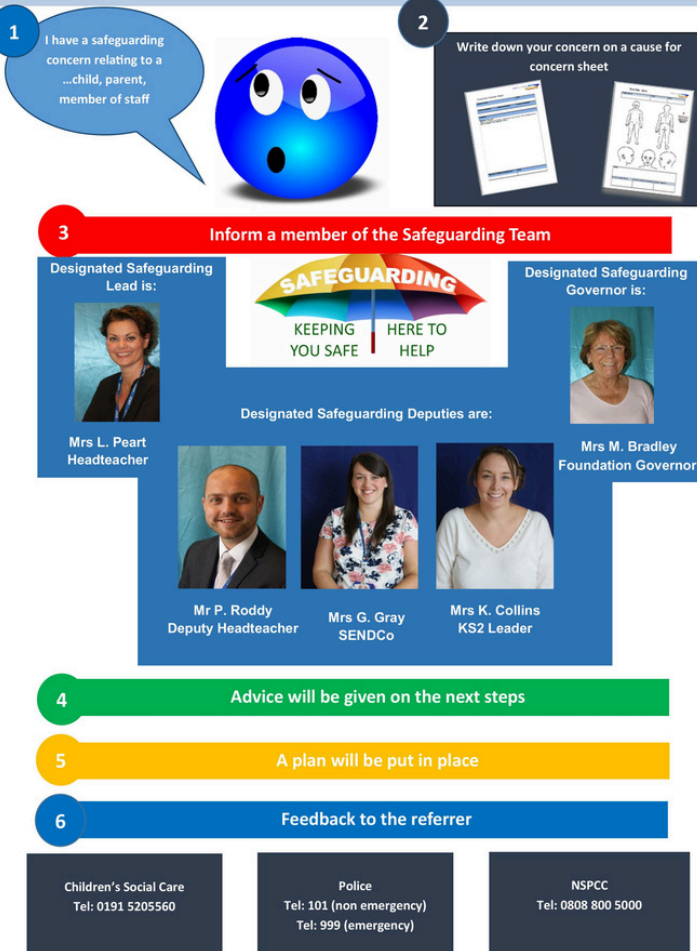
If incidents involving children from our school are taking place in the local community, please report your concerns to **Together for Children**.

- To report a child safeguarding concern (0 to 17 years old) contact Together for Children on **0191 5617007** (available 8.30am to 5:15pm Monday – Thursday, 8.30am to 4.45pm Friday).
- Out of hours duty safeguarding officer: **0191 5205552**
- **For serious incidents, we would always advise contacting the police directly, 999 or 101 for non-emergencies**
- **Gentoo Housing co-ordinator for North Sunderland 07734597810**

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Our Safeguarding Children Process





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'SENSORY TOYS / SQUISHYS'

We wanted to remind everyone about our expectations regarding toys in school. While we understand that toys can be a source of comfort and fun for children, we kindly ask that they are not brought into school.

We have seen an increase of children bringing in 'squishy toys' and teddies. This is leading to bigger and more expensive toys being brought in.

There are several reasons for this request to leave toys at home. Firstly, toys can be a distraction during lessons, making it difficult for students to focus on their work. We want to ensure that all children have the best possible learning environment, free from unnecessary distractions. Secondly, toys can sometimes lead to disagreements or conflicts among children, which can disrupt the harmony of the classroom and playground. By keeping toys at home, we can help maintain a positive and inclusive atmosphere for all.

Additionally, there is always the risk of toys getting lost or damaged, which can cause distress for the children. We want to avoid any upset and ensure that personal belongings are kept safe.

We understand that some children with special educational needs may require sensory toys to help them regulate. If this is the case, it should be agreed with the school SENDCo, Mrs Gray, and written into the child's support plan.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.



ONLINE SAFETY

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

SNAP STREAK
97 DAYS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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