

BHPS SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN

October 2020 #1

Dear parents and carers,

This is October's Safeguarding Bulletin - the first one of the new academic year. This month's edition features information about Loot Boxes and Skins Betting; some top tips for Halloween and a recap of our safeguarding procedures here at school.

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Our Safeguarding Leads:

Hannah Freeman: Designated Safeguarding Lead

Our deputy designated safeguarding leads are: Mr Ellis, Mrs Lawrence and Mrs Sargeant.

If you are concerned about the safety or well being of any child please contact one of us immediately.

**This Month's Online Safety Focus:
Loot boxes and skins betting**

What are they?

Loot boxes: a feature of online games where players pay to get unknown rewards, like items or modifications for their character. It's similar to gambling, because most of the time you don't know what you're going to get before you pay. One example is FIFA player packs, where you buy a 'pack' of players, but don't know who you're going to get when you make the purchase.

Skins betting: where people use 'skins' as betting currency ('skins' are extra items in online games that e.g. upgrade a weapon or character into a better one). You can earn real money if you win. People usually do this through specific websites that let you use skins to bet.

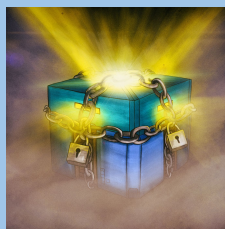
What's the problem?

Some children say they end up chasing a win with loot boxes, like gamblers do

Skins betting is a backdoor way for children to gamble underage

Gambling can be addictive, like drugs or alcohol, with a severe impact on emotional health and wellbeing

Teens have reported spending hundreds of pounds in a year on loot boxes, and losing skins worth thousands through gambling



This Month's Online Safety Focus: Loot boxes and skins betting continued...



3 steps you can take

1. Make sure your child knows the risks

Your child might not realise they could lose hundreds or thousands of pounds. They might not understand the risk of addiction or that, in general, it's illegal to gamble when you're under 18. Explain that websites which guarantee wins or have offers that seem too good to be true are using these as a way to entice you in. Ultimately, behind these promotions is a business looking to make money. Explain how loot boxes are also like gambling as you take a risk for the chance of a reward. Tell them they should report skins gambling websites to the Gambling Commission: <https://bit.ly/2JnBtm7>

2. Set limits on in-game spending to control how much your child can spend This will also help you stop them from spending loads of money without realising it.

Please note: when following the instructions below, the exact steps you need to take may be a little different depending on the device and software version you're using.

- **On Xbox**, go into your family settings and choose a child account. Select Privacy & online safety > Xbox Live privacy > View details & customise > Buy & download and then select 'On' in the 'Ask a parent' box.
- To learn more about how to set up a family account with 'child' profiles for your children, see this page: <https://bit.ly/2pnrPZI>
- **On Android devices**, open the Play Store and tap the 3-lines button in the top left. Then, select Settings > Require authentication for purchases > For all purchases through Google Play on this device.
- **On Apple devices**, go into Settings > Screen Time > Content and Privacy Restrictions (enter your passcode if asked) > iTunes and App Store Purchases > choose a setting (for example, inapp purchases) and set to 'Don't allow'.
- **On PlayStation:** Go to Settings > Parental Controls/Family Management > Family Management Select the user you want to set a spending limit for Select 'Applications/Devices/Network Features' under the 'Parental Controls' section Select 'Monthly Spending Limit' and press X You'll need to set up accounts for family members, with adult and child accounts, and make sure you and other adults have family manager or parent/guardian status. Read more about how to do this here: <https://bit.ly/2Wk3Jer>

3. Know the signs of problematic activity Look out for signs, like if your child:

- Is short of money or has unexplained sources of money
- Becomes secretive or starts lying
- Loses interest in school and other hobbies, as well as in their health and appearance
- Has mood swings if they're not able to access games or devices

Speak to our school if you're concerned about your child, and seek support from organisations like BigDeal (<https://www.bigdeal.org.uk>) and the Gambling Commission.

Safeguarding is our #1 priority every day...

Here at BHPS we firmly believe that children need to feel safe and happy in order to be able to learn and for that reason safeguarding is right at the top of our priority list. We have robust procedures for keeping children safe while they are in our care. We have recently updated the Safeguarding and Wellbeing sections on our website and here you will also find all our latest policies in relation to safeguarding children:

<https://www.bigginhillprimary.com/safeguarding>



Stay safe at Halloween



Who knows what the situation will be come 31st October - but just in case we are all allowed to be out and about as normal, we thought that you may find this advice about Halloween useful—it comes from the police and there are some useful posters to display in your windows depending on your standpoint around Halloween! Halloween can be a great and fun time, but for some people, it's not an enjoyable day and they may get scared or frightened by other's actions.

It is important to remember to be aware of your behaviour and to take the simple steps to remain safe.

Remember:

- Police don't want to spoil people's fun – just make sure everyone stays safe and has an enjoyable time.
- Never go trick or treating, or collecting 'pennies for the guy', alone – always take an adult with you.
- Don't knock on the doors of strangers, for your own safety always visit people you know.
- Keep your 'tricks' safe – any deliberate behaviour that results in damage to property or hurts someone is a crime.

When you are out and about at night you should wear bright clothes and remember your road safety advice.

Download our [Trick or Treaters welcome](#) (pdf)

Download our [No Trick or Treat](#) (pdf)