



## Welcome to our *Spotlight on Safeguarding*

**newsletter!** These newsletters will be released each half term and shine a spotlight on 2 safeguarding topics and 1 online safety topic – focusing on apps. These spotlights will give information, advice and guidance around supporting your children and will include safeguarding issues *local* to our area.

### In this edition:

- Anti-social Behaviour and how to report it
- The dangers of vaping and what to look for
- Spotlight on social media – app focus: TikTok, the rules and the dangers.



### Spotlight 1: Antisocial Behaviour

**What is antisocial behaviour?** Antisocial behaviour is defined as behaviour by an individual which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to other people.

**What does this look like in our area?** In our local area of Scawthorpe there has been several reports regarding "**Woody Park**" and the surrounding fields. There has been a knife incident, masked youngsters and threats of violence. Reports of fires being lit in the surrounding fields and off road illegal motorbike activity also. These are all worrying and if we work together as a community we can help make these spaces safer for our children.

**What can be done about it?** Ask your children about their time when out playing – if they disclose anything worrying please report this to the POLICE 101, log the incident then also share this with school. If there is immediate danger call the police directly. School can then get in touch with our local Stronger Families officer who deals with antisocial behaviour and also our PCSO and they will action regular visits to help support these areas. Incidents need to be reported to raise awareness and to encourage a level of response. As a school we can also support by holding discussions with your children, educating them to the risks and dangers as well as drafting in outside agencies to deliver talks and education on specific contextual subjects. Antisocial behaviour can also be reported on Doncaster council's website and with the Neighbourhood Response Team.

CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE ON 101 FOR A NON EMERGENCY OR REPORT INCIDENT ONLINE. Report online on:  
<https://smartcontact.southyorkshire.police.uk/>

Remember ALWAYS call 999 in the event of an emergency

Doncaster Neighbourhood response team is on hand to tackle antisocial behaviour, 7 days a week 8am to 6am.

Get in touch with the team on **01302 736000**



## Spotlight 2 – Vaping and the dangers for primary aged children

**What is vaping?** Vaping is the inhaling of a vapour by an electronic cigarette

**What are the dangers?** Vapes are marketed to look fun with child friendly flavours leading children to not recognise the dangers. Children who vape are more likely to become smokers, become addicted to nicotine and suffer from lung damage to name a few dangers.

**Signs my child is vaping:** Look out for signs such as new health issues (wheezing/coughing), children smelling of new smells or not having any pocket money left with no explanation.

**How are children getting vapes?** Often children are sold these by older teens, this can also lead younger children to be asked to sell vapes to their friends. Children may also take their parents vapes and distribute amongst friends – be alert to where they are stored.

**How to support your child if they are vaping:**

-visit the NHS website for guidance around this.

-Talk to your child about the dangers and work with your child's school for further support

-contact your GP or school nurse

-ensure your child understands the serious and stark health risks as well as knowing that it is illegal.



### Spotlight on online safety – app focus: TikTok

What is TikTok – is a social media platform used to create, share and discover short videos

#### The risks –

- # mean that a child can access adult content
- Algorithms mean that suggestions will be made based on what has been watched, if this content is inappropriate then similar videos are easily accessed exposing children to content such as swearing and adult content.
- Uploads are easy and quick – if your child uploads a video of another child then this is a safety concern especially if the children are under the age of 13 which it the TikTok age requirement. Sometimes seemingly innocent uploads can cause significant safeguarding concerns such as “up skirting”.

## Online Safety – App focus:

### TikTok

### TikTok – Did you know?

- TikTok has age restrictions of 13 years +
- TikTok has 1.1 billion users and 30% of them are under 18
- Children can be targeted by predators
- Children can be exposed to content around mental health issues – inappropriate for their age to understand such as suicide

**TIKTOK** now has safety features in place for parents but accounts under the age of 13 is NOT recommended.

If you are worried about a child and need some advice please share your concerns with Doncaster Children's Social care on: 01302 737777 or 01302 796000 evening/weekends.

For further information or support around local safeguarding issues please contact:  
Mrs. Speedie  
01302780246