

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our latest newsletter! This edition is a direct outcome of our most recent Safeguarding Committee meeting, where a key focus was placed on enhancing our collective wellbeing and operational efficiency.

The next '1 minute guide' to be issued will focus on the topic of **effective communication with our children and young people**. This vital guide delves into **essential strategies** for effective communication, including specific insights into Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Modelling and understanding Echolalia.

We believe that clear communication and a shared understanding are vital for a thriving and safe workplace for everyone. We hope you find this edition informative and helpful.

Here's a quick insight into the topic and some useful links below:

AAC MODELLING: A KEY COMMUNICATION TOOL

Many of our young people use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), which includes various methods like symbols, communication boards, and iPads. **Modelling** is a powerful way we teach AAC: it means pointing to words or symbols on an AAC device or visual aid as we speak. This is critical because, just like learning to speak requires hearing language around them, AAC users need to see their system actively in use. We should model as often as possible, typically using one or more words than the child is currently using, focusing on key words first and later refining grammar. Remember, model without any expectation, as some individuals may need to see and hear a word over 100 times before they begin using it.

UNDERSTANDING ECHOLALIA: SUPPORTING COMMUNICATION

Echolalia, the repetition or imitation of heard phrases, is common, with around 75% of autistic individuals experiencing it. It can be immediate or delayed, and serves various purposes, from processing language to self-stimulation or even communicating dysregulation. It's crucial to understand that echolalia is often meaningful. To help, we should **reduce questioning** and focus on statements, **allow for silence**, and **never attempt to eliminate or extinguish scripts**. It's vital not to take scripts literally; instead, try to understand the deeper meaning behind them. Always acknowledge scripts as valid communication, even if the meaning isn't immediately clear, and **model expected responses** to help build associations between scripts and requests.

How to support with communication, sensory needs, emotions and behaviour

8 tips to help you communicate effectively with children who have special educational needs

How to be a good listener

Communication strategies for non-verbal children

Using Body Language Effectively

Understanding Echolalia

Supporting children and young people with Echolalia



REMINDER:

STAFF STILL EXPERIENCING
PROBLEMS LOGGING INTO
CPOMS MUST INFORM THEIR
TEAM LEADER OR GEMMA.



I HAVE A VOICE, BUT NO VOCAL CORDS OF MY OWN, I SPEAK WITH PICTURES, SYMBOLS, OR TEXT, WIDELY KNOWN. I HELP THOUGHTS FLY, WHEN WORDS WON'T QUITE TAKE FLIGHT, A BRIDGE FOR SILENCE, SHINING EVER BRIGHT. WHAT AM I?

(ANSWER WILL BE ON THE NEXT ISSUE)
ANSWER FROM LAST ISSUE: STAFF SICKNESS



[Link to Witham Prospect CPOMS](#)



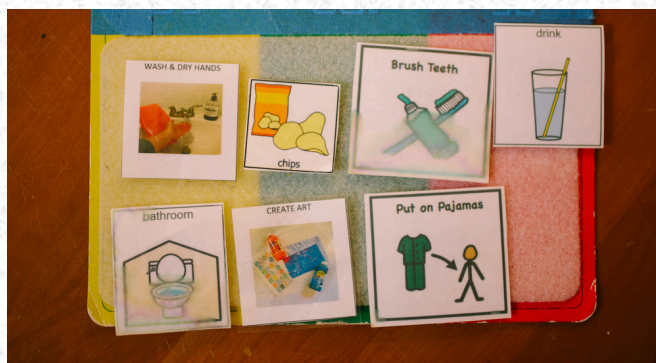
safeguarding@withamprospect.co.uk



[School Bus](#)



[Working together to safeguard children 2023](#)



IT UPDATES

- ◆ We are excited to announce that the new school website is now live! It features the latest news, blogs, and events, and can be instantly edited and updated. It also includes a job section.
- ◆ A manual sheet will be produced for staff to sign off on policy readings, serving as a pre-warning of the current migration of School Bus to the new system, the National College.
- ◆ Staff are reminded to improve their use of the Sign In app when leaving the site with children.
- ◆ A useful bolt-on parent app for Behaviour Watch that allows secure, encrypted sharing of pictures and documents was also discussed; this software is currently in implementation and will replace emails to parents, social workers, etc., providing a more secure two-way communication method for regular updates.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- ◆ **Safety of Small Items and Equipment:** Dangerous small items and equipment are still being left around the building; staff are reminded it is everyone's duty to remove them.
- ◆ **New Nurse:** A new paediatric nurse with complex needs training will join the school in September.
- ◆ **OPS Call Protocol:** Staff must inform office staff if they call OPS and provide their names, as call-backs have caused issues.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Regarding COSHH management, it was noted that products are still occasionally being left on windowsills outside bedrooms, and the COSHH cupboard is sometimes left unlocked. These critical points will be reiterated in upcoming Care Meetings to ensure compliance. In terms of site improvements, new car park signs have arrived, and lines for the disabled parking bay have been painted, making it available for use by taxis and parents. For warm weather safety, staff are reminded of their responsibility to ensure young people wear sunscreen and hats, and to carefully select activities to prevent overheating.

Concerns about bus harnesses continue, with instances of improper securing and movement of harnesses being noted. While discussions about leaving harnesses on dedicated seats occurred, the long-term objective remains to reduce their overall use due to their restrictive nature and young people's ability to release themselves. However, the system for reporting bus issues using Monday.com and QR codes is functioning well, with no reported problems, and the QR code is being added to desktops for easier access. Building maintenance also saw progress, with new lighting being installed in upstairs corridors, and portable heaters have now been removed as the main heating system issues are resolved. Finally, observations included a large bag being left in front of the staff room fire escape, contributing to clutter, and the committee is exploring options for outdoor lockable lockers to alleviate storage challenges.

THE SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

In November 2023, Witham Prospect School formed a safeguarding committee to ensure that a whole school approach to safeguarding is achieved. The committee meets on a monthly basis and the members and their areas of expertise are:

- Jo & Claire - DSL for Care and Education
- Gemma - Chair and Board Level DSL
- Bev, Nicola P & Rhianna - Deputy DSLs
- Colleen - Deputy DSL & Health and Wellbeing Lead
- Nicola W - IT & Health and Safety
- Jason - Site Maintenance
- James P - Digital/Online Safety
- Sam Roberts - Finance
- Dean - HR
- Paul - Compliance
- David - Staff Development & Behaviour Lead
- Tyler - Psychology Assistant
- Jayne - Committee Secretary

COMING UP

The next safeguarding committee focus will be on **Attachment Theory and its relevance at Witham Prospect School.**

Next Safeguarding Committee Meeting: **16th July 2025.**

If you have any points for consideration by the committee please share these with one of the members. Please be aware that the committee does not discuss individual cases. The purpose of the committee is to discuss safeguarding provisions and policy within our setting and review legislative changes and how to implement these effectively.

Social Services: 01522 782111

Childline: 08001111

Lincolnshire Prevent Team: 020 7340 7264

Young Carers Helpline: 01522 553275

NSPCC whistle blowing Helpline: 08088 005000

Samaritans: 01522 528282

Family Services Directory: 0800 19 1635

UPDATE AND EXPAND YOUR
SAFEGUARDING KNOWLEDGE



[LSCP Training Link](#)



[CASPAR newsletter and podcasts](#)