

Safeguarding Bulletin

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New online trend

We would like to make you aware of a potentially dangerous online trend currently circulating among children and young people involving silicone “squishy” toys (sometimes referred to as NEEDOH-type products). Online videos and social media posts are encouraging young people to place these toys in microwaves, falsely claiming that this will make them softer or more flexible. In reality, heating these products can cause them to overheat, burst, or rupture when handled, potentially releasing very hot or boiling contents. There have been reports in both the UK and internationally of children sustaining serious burns to their hands and faces as a result of attempting this trend. We strongly encourage parents and carers to speak with their children about the dangers of participating in online challenges and to reinforce the importance of not attempting activities that may cause harm.

We also advise avoiding direct searches for related challenge videos or content on social media platforms, as this can unintentionally increase the visibility and spread of such material through platform algorithms.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to keep children safe online.



Wellbeing and school attendance

As we return from half term, we recognise that some students may experience increased anxiety linked to exams, wellbeing, or Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA). While these feelings are understandable, maintaining regular attendance is important for students’ wellbeing, confidence, and routine.

Parents and carers can support by:

- Keeping routines consistent during the break and before returning to school
- Encouraging open conversations about worries without reinforcing avoidance
- Focusing on small, manageable steps and positive attendance
- Reassuring students that support is available in school
- Contacting school early if concerns around anxiety or attendance increase

Our pastoral and safeguarding teams are here to support students and families. Early communication can make a significant difference.

- There is lots of additional support, signposting and information on the [Torbay Family Hubs website](#).



We would really appreciate your feedback

To ensure we continue to provide the highest standards of safeguarding, we are gathering feedback from parents. Safeguarding is most effective when schools and families work together, by completing this questionnaire, you'll help us strengthen the systems and support we have in place.

[Safeguarding questionnaire – Fill in form](#)

New dangerous app available on Android

Monkey is a live chat app that encourages random video chatting with strangers both locally and globally. Following the closure of [Omegle](#), Monkey quickly grew in popularity. Many now view it as a new alternative.

It is available via web browser and the Google Play Store. However, Apple’s App Store removed the app because of safety concerns.



[More information is available here via internet matters.](#)

Community safety and anti-social behaviour

We are aware of recent incidents of anti-social behaviour involving young people across the bay area, including some students from Brixham College.

The College works closely with the police to identify students involved and ensure appropriate support and action are in place. Staff have also joined local neighbourhood patrols with Paignton Police to engage with students and promote positive behaviour in the community.

The Police Youth Intervention Team works with students weekly in school to help them understand the law, reflect on their choices, and develop positive behaviours. We also work with local youth services to encourage

safe and positive activities outside school, alongside the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities we already provide. Next half term, students will take part in a “Summer Safety” assembly covering key community safety topics ahead of the summer months.

We greatly appreciate the continued support of parents and carers. Regular conversations with your child about where they are, who they are with, and safe, respectful behaviour can make a significant difference in helping young people make positive choices and stay safe.



The Children's Society

Wellbeing Drop-Ins

Tuesdays @ People Parkfield
38 Esplanade Road,
Paignton, TQ3 2NH

1pm - 4:30pm

Thursdays @ Checkpoint
7 Victoria Road, Torquay, TQ1 1HU

1:00pm-17:00pm

Who?
11-24 yearolds.
How to refer?
Attend a drop in.
Or, scan the QR to register and a member of staff will be in contact.



For more information contact:
01803 200 100

Updated wellbeing drop-in information

The Children’s Society (Checkpoint) continue to offer drop-in sessions for young people in need of support with mental health/ wellbeing. This is a quick and easy way to access support without waitlists.