

DORNEY SCHOOL

Harcourt Close, Dorney Reach
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RESPECT * COLLABORATE * GROW

Headteacher: Mrs Lee

Newsletter 23rd October 2026



Dear Parents,

I would like to wish everyone a very happy half-term. Thank you for supporting the school and class-based staff as the children eased into the new academic year.

It was a good turn out yesterday for parents' book look. For parents who were unable to attend, do speak to class teachers who will be more than happy to agree a mutually convenient time at dismissal, for you to view your child's books. A reminder here to book your virtual parent consultation slot. Parents' consultation will be on Monday 2nd November. We will be unable to help with any technical difficulties on the day. Do email the school so that we can pass any apologies on to class teachers.

Years 2 and 3 went to the zoo on a rather rainy Tuesday afternoon. Even through the rain, they enjoyed their school trip and many are still talking about the animals they saw. Thank you to staff and parents who supported the children during their visit to the zoo.

Parking

Although the school has sent reminders about parking considerably in the local area, we have received a number of complaints from residents and parents. Please park safely in individual bays in the Trumpers' field car park and ensure you only use the accessible/disabled car space if you have a blue badge. Do not use the staff car park unless there has been a pre-agreement, and be mindful of local residents on Harcourt Close.

PTA

Fireworks Night Saturday 7th November 2026

You can purchase the tickets by clicking the below link:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/dorneypta/2455660>



Safeguarding

The school and its staff take safeguarding all children seriously.

Age-Inappropriate Content

“Inappropriate” means different things to different people. What’s perfectly acceptable for one age group, for example, may be highly unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various way – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they’re exposed to age-inappropriate content.



**DORNEY SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING AND
CHILD PROTECTION TEAM**





Mrs Lee
Headteacher



Mrs West
Deputy Headteacher (Safeguarding)



Mrs West
Headteacher

All children have the right to grow up safe from harm.
No child should suffer harm, either at home or at school. Everyone who works at Dorney School has a responsibility to make sure that all our young people are safe.

Any safeguarding concerns regarding a child at this school should be brought to the notice of the above named people.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

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WHERE IS IT FOUND?

SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child’s emotional and mental health.

GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn’t want your child to hear or repeat.

STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can’t always determine that it’s not an adult who’s watching.

ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history: so if you’ve recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

18 Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they’ve watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they’re troubled by something they’ve seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform’s rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

CONNECT, DON’T CORRECT

If your child’s been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn’t suitable for their age, it’s important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it’s equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child’s mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it’s essential to think before you react. Your child may well have panicked to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

Meet Our Expert

Cathy Jorgensen is a registered counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today’s world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/parents-and-carers/age-inappropriate-content>
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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.12.2021

Dates for Your Diary

26 to 30.10.26 – October Half Term

2.11.26 – Inset Day: Parent/Teacher Consultation Day – please refer to parentmail

3.11.26 – School opens to all at 8.30am

4.11.26 – Tempest to take Individual & Siblings Photos – please refer to parentmail

8.12.26 – KS1 Nativity for R/Y1/Y2 Parents 9.15am

9.12.26 – KS1 Nativity for R/Y1/Y2 Parents 1.30pm

10.12.26 – Christmas Lunch (booking is already opened)/Christmas Jumper Day



17.12.26 – KS2 Christmas Carol Concert for Parents – 1.30pm – more information to follow

18.12.26 – Inset day

21.12.26 to 04.01.27 – Christmas Half Term

05.01.27 – school opens to all children at 8.30am

Take care in this wild and windy weather. The school opens again on Tuesday 3rd November at 8.30am.

Best Wishes

Mrs Sharifah Lee

Headteacher



WC 12.10.26

Reception

Willow for being super helpful to all her teachers

Cherry for knowing all her sounds and blending them to read

Year 1

Ted for an excellent participation in PE lessons

Saiansh for an excellent start to a new school – well done

Year 2

Kathaleya for trying really hard with her writing last week and not giving up

Amreet for always making the right choices in the classroom – well done

Year 3

Zhuri for using speech marks correctly in her writing

Year 4

Roman for amazing handwriting and trying his best in all lessons – well done

Sukhmani for fantastic writing in English all about inventions – well done

Year 5

Mason for fantastic effort with home learning – well done

Teddy for better starts to our English lessons – well done

Year 6

Scarlett for 100% effort, focus and challenging herself – well done

Sian for producing high quality writing across the week in all her subjects

WC 19.10.26

Reception

Adem for good listening and an enthusiastic approach to learning

Year 1

Hunter for great progress and focus on his writing

Otto for excellent explanation of key concepts in Maths

Year 2

JJ for writing an amazing story for BBC 500-word competition

Hollie for excellent effort in Maths lesson this week using number bonds to 100



Year 3

Santino for amazing role model to younger children in the afternoon

Year 4

Alma for consistently joining her letters and presenting her work beautifully
Brett for fantastic ideas when creating his ROAR Project

Year 5

Aliyaas for excellent effort in writing and RE lessons especially
Ethan for explaining his design ideas with clarity and purpose

Year 6

Aleena for trying super hard all week to improve the presentation of her work
Caoimhe for outstanding letter writing during our English lesson



A PACT Network event
Parent and Carers Together Network - University of Reading

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MALE ALLIES UK

Supporting Boys and Young Men in a Changing World

An interactive session for parents, educators and employers on how AI, social media and changing ideas about masculinity are shaping boys today, and what we can all do to help them thrive.

Relevant to all boys and young men, including trans boys and trans-masculine young people.

DATE
Tuesday
10 November 2026

TIME
7:00 – 8:30pm
including live Q&A

WHERE
Van Emden Lecture Theatre
Edith Morley Building, University of Reading - or join online

What we'll explore

- ◆ The world boys are growing up in: the social, technological and cultural influences shaping young men
- ◆ Role models and trusted adults: why boys benefit from several people to turn to
- ◆ AI, digital influence and online identity: the opportunities and the risks
- ◆ Key life transitions: from school to university, and from education to work
- ◆ Building healthier futures: practical steps for confidence, resilience, empathy and positive relationships

You'll leave with

- ◆ A clearer picture of what shapes boys' experiences today
- ◆ Practical ideas to support wellbeing and positive development
- ◆ More confidence talking with young people about identity, belonging and the future

About Lee: 2023 UN Women Changemaker of the Year and an international leader on the impact of AI on boys.

Book your place

Join us in the room or online. Scan the code or register at forms.cloud.microsoft/e/ESk81qtHjW

The University of Reading's **Parent and Carers Together Network (PACT)** is hosting an evening event with **Male Allies UK**, and everyone is welcome.



Supporting Boys and Young Men in a Changing World



Tuesday 10 November 2026, 7:00–8:30pm



Van Emden Lecture Theatre, Edith Morley Building, University of Reading, or join online



Register here: [Please fill out this form](#)



Event details: <https://www.reading.ac.uk/events/Feed/2026/November/Supporting-Boys-and-Young-Men-in-a-Changing-Wor...>

Young men are growing up in a world that is changing faster than ever. AI, social media and shifting ideas about masculinity, identity and belonging bring challenges that earlier generations never faced.

The session is led by **Lee Chambers**, founder and CEO of Male Allies UK. He was the 2023 UN Women Changemaker of the Year and is an international leader on the impact of AI companions and chatbots on boys. Using personal stories, new research, and practical strategies, he will explore:

- the social, technological, and cultural influences shaping boys today
- why positive role models and trusted adults matter
- AI, digital influence, and online identity
- support through key transitions, from school to university and from education to work
- practical ways to help young men build confidence, resilience, empathy, and positive relationships

The evening ends with an interactive Q&A, led by the University of Reading team, which you can join in the room or online.

This session is relevant to all boys and young men, including trans boys and trans-masculine young people, and to everyone who supports them: parents, carers, educators, employers, and colleagues.

Please register using the link above and feel free to share this with anyone who might be interested

