Co-Principals: **Mr G.C. McCluskey** B.Ed (Hons), M.Ed, PQH (NI) **Mrs Y. Moore** B.Ed (Hons), PQH (NI) **Telephone : 02893351352**	OAKFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL logo	**OAKFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL** **& NURSERY UNIT** **www.oakfieldprimaryschool.com** **Monday 22 May 2023**

School photographer

Just a brief reminder that Mark Barnes, photographer and parent, will join us on **Wednesday 24 May 2023** to take individual pupil photographs within our Primary School and Nursery Unit. Mark has also kindly agreed to taking family groups from within our whole school, if these have been requested. All pupils should therefore wear full school uniform on **Wednesday 24 May 2023**.

School closures list Term 3

Monday 29 May 2023 - Whitsun Holiday
Thursday 1 - Friday 2 June 2023 - Staff training

Primary 7 Girls football team

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our P7 Girls football team. They competed in the local primary school girls 5-a-side indoor football tournament on **Wednesday 10 May 2023** at Carrick Leisure Centre. The team won many matches reaching the quarter finals but were however narrowly defeated by Eden PS at that stage. Well done, girls.

Nursery News

The Nursery children are enjoying making full use of our outdoor learning space.
A huge thank you to all who helped in our Spring tidy up in the nursery garden, it was very much appreciated!
We are very excited for our trip with our buddies from Acorn Integrated Nursery Unit, on Thursday to Loughshore and Whiteabbey Church.
It was lovely to welcome our new intake for September last week, we are looking forward to having you join the Oakfield family soon!

Safer Schools NI App

As part of our Safer Schools NI initiative, for the next two weeks we are focusing on **Snapchat**.
At the end of this newsletter, please find attached a 'Snapchat Safety Card'.
You can find more information about Snapchat and Snapchat Buzzwords by accessing the Safer Schools NI App.

- Login to the App
- Select 'Online Safety Guidance'
- Select 'Social Media'
- Select 'Snapchat' or 'Snapchat Buzzwords

Shared Education trip to Corrymeela

Our Primary 6 children have had a wonderful few days residential trip to Corrymeela from **Tuesday 16 – Wednesday 17 May 2023**. They were joined by their P6 friends from Acorn IPS. The children enjoyed a huge range of activities. Thanks go to Mrs Moore and Miss Logan for accompanying the children and also special thanks to Miss Logan for organising the trip for both schools.

Sports Day 2023

We are hoping to hold our **Nursery Unit, Primary 1-3** and **Primary 4-7 Sports Day events on Monday 12 June 2023 (first choice)** commencing at **9.00am (NU), 10.30am (P1-P3) and 1.15pm (P4-P7)** respectively. Children are to wear sports gear to school and we are delighted to invite families to attend. Mums and Dads races will take place at the end of each Primary School Sports Day Session so please come prepared to take part, although rumour has it that it's an 'egg & spoon race'. If our Sports Day is postponed due to adverse weather conditions, then it will take place on **Tuesday 13 June 2023 (second choice),** provided the ground is in a suitable condition. (School texting service & seesaw will be used for cancelling **around 8am**, if required.)

Nursery Unit – Primary 7 Reports and class information

Again this year, Nursery Unit – Primary 7 school reports and class information for September 2023 will be emailed to parents on the afternoon of **Thursday 15 June 2023**. Each teacher will send a test email to all Primary parents on **Monday 12 June 2023**. If you do not receive this test email, please contact your child's class teacher or our school office on 02893351352 or mcraig913@c2kni.net and we will update our email records for you prior to teachers emailing reports.

G. McCluskey & Y. Moore

School Information for Parents : Oakfield Safeguarding & Child Protection Team

| Miss L Gilmour Designated Teacher | Mrs J Barrow Deputy Designated Teacher (Primary) | Mrs K Wylie Deputy Designated Teacher (Nursery) | Mr G McCluskey Co-Principal | Mrs Y Moore Co-Principal | Mr P Jones Board of Governors Chairperson | Mrs L Soeters Designated Governor |

Safety Card: Snapchat

Snapchat is used to share photos, messages and short videos and the person sending the photo or video can decide how long their friends can view it for. Content can be customised with filters, text and stickers. If the content is sent directly, it will disappear after it is viewed. Alternatively, if a user uploads content to their Story it will remain visible for 24 hours. Snapchat rules (Terms and Conditions of Service) require you to be 13 or older to use the app.

Age Restriction 13+

Stay safe on Snapchat using the instructions on **Privacy**, **Blocking** & **Reporting** below:

Privacy

Activate Ghost Mode on your Snapchat account:

> Open the app and tap on ⊙ in the bottom navigation bar.

> Tap on ⚙ in the top right corner.

> Swipe right on **Ghost Mode**.

> This is **Ghost Mode** now activated.

Block

Block a user using these simple instructions;

> Swipe left once you open the app.

> Select the contact you want to block.

> Tap on ⋮

> Tap on **Block**.

Report

Report a user using these simple instructions;

> Swipe left once you open the app.

> Select on the contact you want to report.

> Tap on ⋮

> Tap on **Report**.

For more apps visit;
oursafetycentre.com

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v4

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivalling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily, Spotlight Challenges give users to the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.
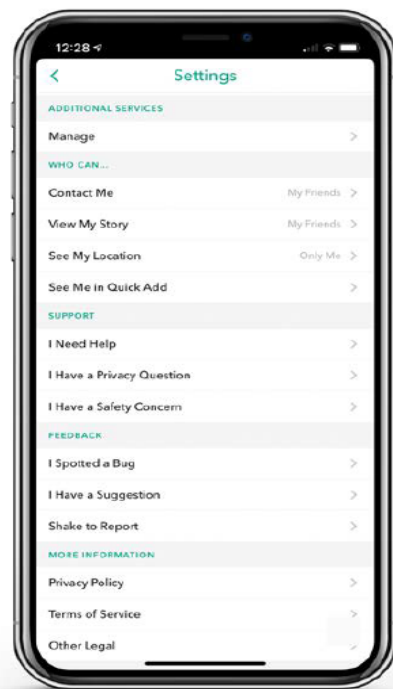
INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures *do* disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshotted first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking into locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in. Additionally, it's important to be cautious about Shared Stories as this allows people who are not on your contact list access to the post.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

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Sources: Status of Mind: Social media and young people's mental health | Life in Likes – Children's Commissioners Report | https://support.snapchat.com/en-US https://netsanity.net/snapchat-parent-review/ | BT.com | Independent.co.uk, https://mashable.com/article/snapchat-status-snap-maps/?europe=true, eSafety Commissioner, (2017), Young People and Sexting – Attitudes and Behaviours: Research Findings from the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia.

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Amended: 04.07.2022