



WGS Staying Safe This Summer Help Sheet 21/07/2021

We know it has been a tough year and a tough week and some students and families may welcome knowing where additional support is available. This separate letter covers a range of issues and gives access to support.

Support following the events this week

St Mary's Church, Cogges, are opening specially on Thursday this week, 22nd July from 1-6pm for Wood Green students and friends who would like to light a candle in memory of our student who died this week or just to spend some quiet time in the church. They are also happy to be contacted via office@coggesparish.com at any time.

Seesaw is an excellent group in Oxfordshire who help people who have experienced loss. They can be contacted [via their website](#) and they are well aware of what has happened at Wood Green this week.

We recognise that it has been a tough year for families in many ways. Attached to this letter are a list of providers who can offer support over the summer.

Water Safety:

We delivered a clear message to students today about water safety this summer, including cold water shock, getting out of depth without realising and hazards under the water.

Covid News – changes of rules during the summer:

Keeping up with Covid rules is highly confusing. The rules may change again on August 16th. Oxfordshire County Council have produced a letter which is attached and tries to explain these rules.

Staying Safe online – a new worrying app

We have received information from the Thames Valley Partnership and the Locality Community Support Service (LCSS) about a website and linked app which is of concern. This is a summary of the information:

"The app is called 'Monkey' and allows user to make video calls to strangers. Once a conversation is finished, the user clicks next and it will then connect them to a different user which could be someone from anywhere in the world. The website states that users must be 18 plus but there is no age verification on either platform meaning anyone could download it. If users use the website from a desktop, they don't need an account to sign in and chat to people, but users of the app will.

The app is currently only available on android devices. Whilst testing the platform, reviewers found that every second or third video was of wholly inappropriate images of a sexual nature. The unpredictability of the content is likely to increase the shock factor and harmful impact as users have no idea what will appear. It is designed to attract children- Everything, from the name, to the graphics on the platform suggest this is created to attract children.

In Google Play Store, its description reads 'Make friends and chat to celebrities' and the app has copied TikTok's vertical style video feed. The location of each user is shared publicly (country and town/city) and there is no option to block this. You cannot use the app/website without having your camera on. There are screenshots of Monkey on Instagram as well as Monkey having their own TikTok account meaning young people may be driven to the site."

We would encourage you to monitor your child's use of the internet and social media at all times, but particularly now as the summer holidays offer everyone more freetime. Websites which give advice for parents on helping their children stay safe online include:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/b/>

- Support over the summer contact list
- Covid guidance including Contact tracing (OCC)