



Whitby school  
Ad finem terrae

newsletter

ISSUE 26





## HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME



At Whitby School, our values of **ambition**, **character**, **courage**, and **endeavour** guide everything we do. This half term, I want to take a moment to talk about something that sits at the very heart of our school community: **safeguarding**.

We want every child to feel safe, supported, and confident in school. That starts with knowing there is always someone they can talk to. Each day begins with tutor time, and this is more than just a routine—it's a vital part of our pastoral care. Tutors are colleagues who know your child well and are there to support them. In addition, we have a dedicated team of non-

teaching pastoral staff and

Heads of Year who are always available to help.

Across the school, you'll also find signs displaying the names and photographs of our safeguarding team.

These are the people pupils can go to if they are worried or need help. While we always aim to listen with compassion and care, it's important to note that we cannot promise confidentiality—especially if a child shares something that suggests they are at risk or need further support. In such cases, we work to build strong communication between home and school to ensure the best outcomes for every child.







We also understand that some pupils may feel nervous or reluctant to speak to an adult in person—particularly when it comes to peer issues such as friendships or bullying. That's why we've created a space on our school website where pupils can message our safeguarding team directly with any concerns. This can be about themselves or someone else. The link can be found under the '**Contact Us**' menu, and all messages are read and acted upon by our team. We want every pupil to feel safe and heard.

### How You Can Help at Home

There are also ways you can support your child in feeling confident and happy in their friendships:

- encourage open conversations at home about their day and their social experiences
- help them practise how to resolve disagreements calmly and respectfully
- remind them that it's okay to walk away from negative situations and to seek help when needed
- praise kindness, empathy, and inclusion—these are the building blocks of strong friendships.

It's also important to remember that **use of mobile phones and social media is a parental choice**. While platforms like WhatsApp now allow children aged 13 and over to register, they can also be a source of peer conflict. Research from Ofcom and the Children's Commissioner has shown that social media can increase anxiety, expose children to unkind behaviour, and make it harder to switch off from peer pressures.

Certainly, times have changed since I was a child—when the internet wasn't available in most homes—and even since I began teaching. Today, interactions, conversations, and exchanges continue well beyond the school gates. This means that the benefits and challenges of peer relationships often move in and out of school life.

In a rural community like ours, staying connected is important. But we are all—home and school—committed to helping children **build positive, respectful, and resilient relationships**. Together, we can ensure that every child feels safe, supported, and ready to thrive.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

*Warm regards, Mr G Davies*





## SEN PARENT FORUM

Since the SEN Parent Forum began over a year ago, we have seen many changes in Whitby Secondary Education. Originally formed to help SEN pupils and their families understand and adapt to the amalgamation of Eskdale and Caedmon Schools. We have been able to offer practical support, completing documentation and attending meetings in order to obtain EHCPs which in turn provides bespoke support for the child. We have signposted parents to other agencies who are available to offer help and advice in a wide range of areas of SEN, and we have shared personal experiences to hopefully help parents understand they need never feel isolated with the issues they are experiencing.

While all our amazing children are unique many of the problems they experience in school and the minefield of documents parents have to navigate to get additional support are generally the same for all SEN families. This group is the bridge between you worrying alone and finding the correct route towards a solution for you and your child. If we as a group are unable to help, we usually know someone who can.

Mr Pearce from Wonder Learning Partnership invited members of the SEN Parent Forum to start a focus group to give more parents the chance to ask questions and express their concerns. More recently we have continued with our regular meetings and collaborated with Mr Davies and the SEN Department. They have been very welcoming and supportive, demonstrating that we are all working towards embracing diversity and meeting the needs of

all SEN pupils at the school. Some of our suggestions or questions have related to specific individuals while others have affected the whole SEN community within school. The SEN team have also been able to share developments and proposals with us empowering us to feel part of the school community and have encouraged us to contribute towards the positive well being of our own children within the school setting. These have included issues relating to 'sensory school uniform', flexibility and support for children who are unable to commit to a fulltime timetable or who are unable to be part of a traditional class group, appropriate use of fidget items in class and additional equipment available to meet a wide range of learning needs. The staff at school can only put things in place





for children if they know what is required and this group can take problems and hopefully some solutions to the SEN Parents' Forum to enable the school to act in the best interest of your child.

We are aware that in the next few months there will be yet more new experiences for our young people, Year eights transitioning to the upper site and the new year sevens making the huge leap from Primary to Secondary school. For children and families these can be very worrying times and we hope that by offering you the opportunity to attend our meetings you will be able to raise your concerns, visit the site and meet other parents who have a wealth of SEN experience to share.

We will be holding meetings on the last Thursday of every month 10.00am-12.00noon at The Bungalow,

Airy Hill Site, refreshments will be provided. You will also have the opportunity to tour the school if you have a child moving to secondary in September.

This group provides an opportunity for you to share your views and concerns about your child at school and to provide advice and help where we can. Without you there can be no change. Please come along, meet other parents and contribute to making positive changes for our SEN children and empower them to receive the educational opportunities and lifelong living skills they deserve to enable them to be fully prepared for further education, employment and the changing world that they are apart of.

**The next meeting will be  
Thursday 26 June, 10.00am– 12.00noon.**

*Kind regards – SEN Focus Group*

## WINNERS OF KS4 VOUCHERS

£100 to Hanna and £50 to Xavier, both have collected 500 positive points for their **ambition, endeavour, courage** and **character**.

Hanna just pipped Xavier to the post to gain the top prize. Well done you two!



## YEAR 8 TRANSITION

Year 8 into 9 Transition to the Prospect Hill (Upper School) site will take place on Tuesday 8, Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 July 2025.

Pupils will have time to tour the Prospect Hill site, take part in lessons and meet many of the staff who will be working with them in September.

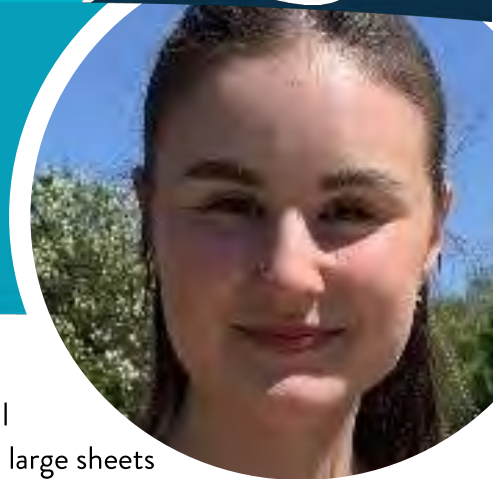
More details about the arrangements will follow shortly.

We are all really looking forward to welcoming the pupils and supporting them in the next stage of their Whitby School journey.





## GIRLS IN STEM



Just before half term a group of Year 10 girls attended a workshop which was aimed at learning about female role models and a better understanding of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) pathways. The session was delivered by Miriam (from Pannett Art Gallery) and Lydia (her daughter, and current medical student studying for an intercalated Masters in Maternal and Foetal Health).

A former Caedmon College pupil, Lydia was the perfect person to talk to the young women, offering an insight into the pros, cons and practicalities of considering a route into studying science. Lydia delivered an interactive, evaluative exercise, getting the girls to consider both the skills needed to progress

in science and potential barriers to success. On large sheets of paper, the girls drew round each other, filling in the figure with skills they thought would be useful for a career in science. Then outside of the figure, they were asked to consider potential or perceived barriers to progressing. There was a lot of discussion about the responses, and the girls learned to think about the skills they have, those they might need in their careers and that considering potential barriers can be useful for overcoming them.

Lydia created a presentation looking at girls and women in science. She had also conducted a questionnaire with her peers, all of whom have





achieved success in their chosen STEM pathway. From this, the pupils were able to learn about the multitude of science pathways that they had not previously considered as well as qualifications, personal qualities and skills that might be of use. It was great to show a range of other young women succeeding in STEM as role models too.

Well done to the girls who took part, thank you for your enthusiasm and engagement. Look out for them in interesting roles in the future!

*Mrs Fleming (Head of Science) and Miriam (Pannett Art Gallery)*







## YEAR 9 'MAKING WAVES'

It was the turn of some of our Year 9 pupils to visit York St John University, just before half term, as part of their Making Waves programme. The pupils took part in a Taskmaster style challenge day, where they could win a £20.00 voucher individually or the school with the most points could get a box of chocolates for the bus back to school. Unfortunately we didn't manage to win anything but all the pupils really got involved in the challenges and we had a great day. As well as having lots of fun, our pupils also found out more about university life, the cost of university and how to create a three course meal for £5.00 (which was quite a challenge)!



The final task was to find different and unusual places around the campus for the little rubber duck they were given, our duck was a little pink alien that liked to hide in plants, as you can see from the photo!

This trip was designed to support the pupils in finding out more about the many opportunities available to them in the future.





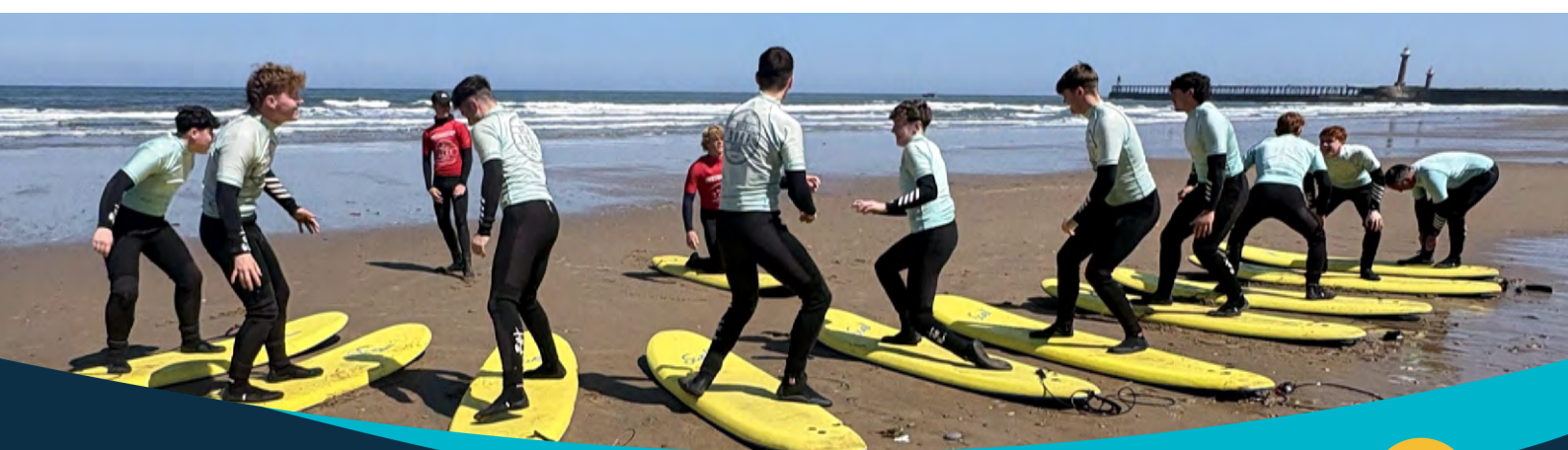


## YEAR 12 BTEC SURF TASTER

Thank you to Whitby Surf School for accommodating a group of Whitby Sixth Form students at a recent surf taster session. The group are currently studying for their BTEC Sport Diploma which included a focus on Outdoor Adventurous activities. The group were provided with equipment and introduced to the skills

required on a day where the sea certainly provided some powerful waves. Thank you to the instructors who are both past students of the school.

Whitby Surf School is now open for the summer with a wide range of activities available to book, get down and have a go.







Many, many hours have been put into rehearsing for the fantastic inaugural Whitby School summer production of - We Will Rock You - featuring a stunning repertoire of classic Queen songs woven into an amusing and unusual plot about the far (or not so far) future where all music on the entire planet is produced by an artificial intelligence... sounds eerily familiar.

The pupils and students have put loads of effort into this production and it is a celebration of acting, singing and dancing skills. We are extremely proud of how this has brought pupils and students from both previous schools together as well as across all year groups.

Tickets are now officially on sale - they are priced for general admission at £7.00 and are available solely at

the Prospect Hill site. You can also request tickets by emailing [finance@whitbyschool.co.uk](mailto:finance@whitbyschool.co.uk) and you will be able to pay by bank transfer.

Dates for the show are 8, 9 and 10 July and doors open at 6.30pm with the curtain up at 7.00pm. Refreshments are available with a bar and hot drinks area and there will also be a raffle held each night. There will be a short interval so please pre-order drinks at the bar to save you time.

This will be an amazing achievement for our school as nothing like this has been showcased in quite a long time! It is also a first for our newly amalgamated school and hopefully one of many to come.

We hope to see you there!







## APPRENTICESHIP EVENING

**To be held on Tuesday 10 June,  
4.30-6.30pm.**

We have come back with a bigger and better apprenticeship evening for you this year!

Come along to speak with local employers about the various opportunities for them within this town and the surrounding areas.

Employers that have already confirmed are: Beyond Housing, the Army, NHS, Boulby Underground Laboratories, Simpson York, Mayfield Care Home, Everyone Active, Asquith and Co, Scarborough TEC, Askham Bryan and Fuscus. We are still waiting to hear back from a few more local employers too!

There will be talks from ASK Apprenticeships at 4.30pm and 5.30pm, which will be followed by short talks from some of the employers, so it promises to be

a good evening to find out more about many different apprenticeships and job sectors. Also for our young people to find out what it is they need to do to get the apprenticeship they want.

Tea, coffee, juice will be provided as well as some lovely school baked biscuits and cakes.

### How to Sign up for the Evening

This event is for all pupils/students and their parents in Year 9 to Year 13. We ask that you register for the event on Eventbrite [HERE](#). This is so we have an idea of the number of people coming.

If you have any questions about the evening or if you would like to attend as an apprenticeship employer please contact our Careers and Guidance Lead Ms Mackle: [g.mackle@whitbyschool.co.uk](mailto:g.mackle@whitbyschool.co.uk)





# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about OFCOM MEDIA REPORT 2025

Every year, Ofcom releases its Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report, offering fresh insights into how young people are using digital platforms. The 2025 edition highlights key safeguarding concerns as children's engagement with social media, gaming, and live streaming continues to grow. This guide pulls out the top statistics from the report, focussing on the main areas of concern for parents and educators.

## ONLINE LIVES

Children are engaging with social media and online content at increasing rates:

**37%**  
3-5s

now have access to social media platforms; however, only a small proportion use it independently of parents.

**79%**  
3-17s

have a social media profile, with 16% including a public photo.

**66%**  
3-17s

watch livestreamed videos regularly, with 16% of them streaming their own content.

**POST**

## ONLINE GAMING

Gaming remains popular but raises concerns:

**74%**

of children say they play with someone they know, while 32% report playing with strangers.

**62%**

of parents worry about their children talking to strangers while gaming.

**31%**

of children who game online chat with people they don't know.

## PARENTAL CONCERNS

Parents are increasingly worried about online risks:

**70%**

fear their child may see age-inappropriate or sexual content.

**68%**

fear exposure to content that promotes self-harm.

**72%**

worry about their child distinguishing real from fake information.

**61%**

worry about exposure to extreme views.

**69%**

are concerned about online bullying.

## SCREEN TIME

Screen time is still a major challenge for parents:

**70%**

of parents of 13-17s say it's difficult to manage screen time.

**33%**

of 8-17s think their own screen time is too high.

**At 29% vs 24%**

boys were more likely than girls to disagree that their screen time is too high.

**18**

## HARMFUL CONTENT & INTERACTIONS

A significant minority of children continue to have negative feelings about social media and messaging apps:

**Nearly four in ten 8-17s**

believe that people are mean or unkind to each other online all or most of the time.

**Girls aged 8-17**

are more likely than boys to say they have experienced someone being nasty or hurtful to them online (31%).

**One third of teenagers**

agree that it's important that people can say what they want online, even if it offends someone.

## ONLINE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

Positively, the vast majority of children reported learning about online safety at school:

**92%**

of children aged 8-17 recall at least one lesson on online safety and most report finding them useful.

The top three topics covered are:

**63%**

How to recognise harmful content.

**63%**

How to keep personal information safe.

**62%**

Being kind and respectful online.

**#WakeUpWednesday**

The National College





# NOTICES

## Year 11 Uniform Exchange

Year 11s will be able to exchange their ties, blazers and PE tops for chocolate and sweets on Monday 16 June after the last big GCSE exam.

Staff will be present at the school gates where pupils can swap their uniform for items of confectionery as they leave. Uniform donations will be recycled and reused by pastoral teams and families who would be really grateful for them. Trousers, skirts, shirts, jumpers and PE kit can also be donated.

## Dropping Off/Collecting your Son/Daughter from School

Please note that, for health and safety reasons, we need to restrict the movement of traffic on the schools' sites to keep our pupils safe. Parking is unavoidably limited for visitors, particularly on our Prospect Hill Site. However, Mayfield Road has space for parking which is easy to access. There are many pupils leaving the site at 3.30pm and we need it to be as safe as possible for them. Please therefore avoid turning into the Prospect Hill car park if there is space on Mayfield Road. Please also be respectful of our school neighbours and do not block or park in their private parking areas. This includes Beevers' Furniture Store car park - dropping off/collecting pupils from Beevers' car park is not permitted, nor is dropping off/collecting from our neighbours' parking areas at the top of the school driveway. The emergency access bay near to the field gate at our Prospect Hill Site also must be left clear at all times. When driving onto either school site, please note the 5mph speed limit and the reverse only policy for parking so that you only drive forwards out of any parking space. Thank you for your support with these matters.

## Whitby Sixth Form Instagram

Follow us to see the exciting things our students are achieving at Whitby Sixth Form.

[ws\\_sixthform](#)





## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### MONDAY

- Rehearsals for all members of the chorus We Will Rock You at Prospect Hill Site (Drama Studio)
- Airy Hill Site Band, Lunchtime

### TUESDAY

- Rehearsals for all members of the chorus We Will Rock You at Prospect Hill Site (Drama Studio)
- Sixth Form Maths, 3.30-4.30pm (M2)
- Gym Club, 3.30-4.30pm. All years welcome. (Prospect Hill site Fitness Suite)
- GCSE Music coursework help, 3.30-4.30pm

### WEDNESDAY

- Choir, Lunchtime (Airy Hill Site)
- Rehearsals for all members of the chorus We Will Rock You at Airy Hill Site (R17)
- Year 11 Maths, 3.30-4.30pm (Higher in room H7; Foundation in room S2)
- Wednesdays and Thursdays after school (alternating days) After school Drama Club for Airy Hill Site - Main Hall; after school rehearsals for main cast WWRY

### THURSDAY

- Funk Band, lunchtimes (Prospect Hill Site)
- Music Theory, before school (Prospect Hill Site)
- Gym Club, 3.30-4.30pm. All years welcome. (Prospect Hill Site Fitness Suite)
- Year 11 German Help, 3.30-4.30pm (plus other nights if needed)
- GCSE Music coursework help, 3.30-4.30pm

### FRIDAY

- Year 9 Drama Club, Lunchtime (Drama Studio)
- Writers' Club, Lunchtime (H6)
- English Revision, Lunchtime (H6)





## KEY DATES

To find out more about upcoming events and visits, please view the Whitby School Calendar.

w/c 9 June .....	Year 12 Trial Exams
Tuesday 10 June .....	Year 9-Year 13 Apprenticeship Evening for pupils and parents
Wednesday 18 June .....	Year 12 to Hull University Experience Day
Thursday 19 June .....	Year 12 to Leeds Beckett University UCAS Fair
Monday 23 June .....	Years 9 & 10 Anglo American talk 'International Women in Engineering Day'
Monday 23-Friday 27 June .....	Dutch Student Exchange visit to Whitby
Tuesday 24 June .....	Year 12 students visit Boulby Mine
Tuesday 24 June .....	Geography Year 10 Fieldwork - Sandsend to Whitby
Wednesday 25 June .....	Geography Year 10 Fieldwork - Sandsend to Whitby
Wednesday 25 June .....	Year 10 Employability Workshops
Thursday 26 June .....	SEN Parent Forum, 10.00am-12.00noon.
Thursday 26 June .....	Year 11 Prom, 6.00-10.00pm (Sneaton Castle)
Monday 30 June .....	Year 12 students University of York 'Creativity Lab' Trip
Tuesday 1 July .....	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Tuesday 1 July .....	Year 7 Hunger Games
Tuesday 1-Wednesday 2 July .....	Year 12 trip to Oxford University
Wednesday 2 July .....	Young Carer Hub, Prospect Hill site
Friday 4 July .....	Sports Day
Friday 4 July .....	Year 12 students 'Project Dare' at Nestle, York
w/c Monday 7 July .....	Year 6 Transition (Airy Hill site)
8-10 July .....	We Will Rock You (Prospect Hill site)
Tuesday 15 July .....	Summer Concert, 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 21 July .....	Training Day
Tuesday 22 July .....	Training Day
Thursday 14 August .....	A-Level Results Day
Thursday 21 August .....	GCSE Results Day
1 and 2 September .....	Staff Training Days
12-17 October .....	Music Exchange return visit to Whitby



## TERM DATES 2025-26

### Autumn Term 2025

Mon. 1 & Tues. 2 September	Training Days
Wed. 3 September	School Opens
Wed. 15 October	Training Day
Fri. 24 October	School Closes
Mon. 27-Fri. 31 October	Half Term Holiday
Mon. 3 November	School Opens
Fri. 19 December	School Closes
Mon. 22 Dec.-Fri. 2 January	Christmas Holiday

### Spring Term 2026

Mon. 5 January	Training Day
Tues. 6 January	School Opens
Fri. 13 February	School Closes
Mon. 16-Fri. 20 February	Half Term Holiday
Mon. 23 February	School Opens
Fri. 27 March	School Closes
Mon. 30 March.- Fri. 10 April	Easter Holiday

### Summer Term 2026

Mon. 13 April	School Opens
Mon. 4 May	Bank Holiday
Fri. 22 May	School Closes
Mon. 25-Fri. 29 May	Half Term Holiday
Mon. 1 June	School Opens
Fri. 17 July	School Closes
Mon. 20 July	Training Day





# MEET THE STAFF

## Senior Leadership Team

Mr G Davies – Headteacher

Ms S Boyd – Deputy Headteacher

Miss J Caddell – Deputy Headteacher

Mrs J Bradley – Assistant Headteacher (Prospect Hill site)

Mrs K Mallender – Assistant Headteacher (Airy Hill site)

Mr A Whelan – Assistant Headteacher (Sixth Form)

## SENDCo

Mrs H Kirk – SENDCo

## Safeguarding

Miss J Caddell – Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs J Bradley – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

## Heads of Year

Mrs A Harrison – Year 7

Ms D Reddy – Year 7

Mr A Raw – Year 8

Mrs J Cassell-Osowski – Year 9

Mrs A Scales – Year 10

Ms A Ruberry – Year 11

## Care & Achievement Coordinators

Miss A Clarkson – Year 7

Miss E Hutton – Year 8

Miss K Wilson – Year 8

Mr D Jackson – Year 9

Mrs H Ross – Year 10

Mr D Taylor – Year 11

Mr J Daley – Year 12 & 13

# SAFEGUARDING



**Designated  
Safeguarding Lead**  
Miss J Caddell



**Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead**  
Mrs J Bradley

## SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Mrs K Mallender



Mr A Whelan



Mrs J Robinson



**SENDCo**  
Mrs H Kirk



**Governor**  
Mr M Taylor



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

### SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

### RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (👤) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

### MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍂 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌵 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

### NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥👀 (fire + 'woozy' face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like [emojipedia.org](https://emojipedia.org) or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

### CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

### ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

### PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who's watching them.

## EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

### COMMON EMOJIS:

🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around	🥰 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping'
😬 (Cold face) Cool, stylish or ruthless	👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold
😍 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement	🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
😐 (Moai) Stone-faced, unbothered	👉 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
👑 (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great	🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone's behaviour

### POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

🍌 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)	🌵 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine	🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced'
🔑 (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use	🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
🍃 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis	⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse	🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles)

### Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of [emojipedia.org](https://emojipedia.org), the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



The National College