

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are aware that many of you will be looking at sport and recreational activities are available for your children to attend during the school holiday periods.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many children missed out on opportunities to participate in sports and other recreational activities. The impact that this had on their physical and mental health was clearly visible for all to see. I'm sure that we all firmly welcome the return to some form of "normality" as once again our children can freely attend the activities of their choice. However, parents/carers must remember to do the same level of "due diligence" that you did applying for your child's school for when you are looking for a sports club or activity provider before you let your child attend.

Recently, we have seen two high profile inquiries into misconduct in sport and the devastating impact that abuse can have on both children and their families. With this in mind, the NWG Network have developed a campaign called "Safe to Play". This campaign has been designed to help create safer sporting environments and to give parents/carers the confidence to ask the right questions before their children attend.

The Safe to Play campaign features a suite of short videos, which can be accessed using the QR code below. The campaign video is based around a family scenario and features three short vignettes from a sports coach, a parent and a child based on a safeguarding incident involving a sports coach. The videos provide a wealth of information important for parents and children and provides the questions that parents/carers need to ask when selecting a club or a coach for their child.

West Sussex County Council are delighted to be Safe to Play partners with the NWG Network and encourage all parent/carers to access the campaign resources using the QR code opposite.



More local information, guidance, and support to help keep your children safe in their chosen activity can be found by accessing the [WSSCC Safe Clubs website](#).

Additionally, for further information regarding Safe to Play campaign and keeping children safe from exploitation, please visit the [NWG networks campaign website](#).

Safeguarding children is everyone's business and it starts with parents, so please do your homework with holiday sport and activity clubs, join the movement, and let's keep Sport Safe to Play in West Sussex!

Yours Sincerely

Miriam Williams and Donna Tomlinson

West Sussex Local Authority Designated Officers