



## Welcome back!

We hope that you had a great time and enjoyed Summer Holidays!

We would like to use this opportunity to remind you about the ways you can contact us:

### **School**

Telephone number: 01384 818945

Email: [info@pens-meadow.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@pens-meadow.dudley.sch.uk)

### **Safeguarding**

Email: [safeguarding@pens-meadow.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@pens-meadow.dudley.sch.uk)

### **Family Outreach Team**

Sue: 07966995631

Sally: 07773959823

### **School Nursing Team**

Telephone number: 01384 818945

Natalie: 07580787861

Please, do not hesitate. We're here to help.

## Child Vulnerability and VR Technology - NSPCC

The use of VR technology is becoming both more affordable and as a result more widely available. This has itself led to an increase in users. The platforms that utilize this ground breaking technology, are in many respects an unknown to regulators and educators alike. Concepts such as multi-user spaces and phantom touch, in addition to the ability to access restricted portions of the internet, whilst being hooked up to one's physical body opens new avenues of concern. The NSPCC has recently commissioned both a report and study into the vulnerability windows opened by VR technologies. To find out more please follow the link below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2023/over-75-of-people-believe-children-are-at-significant-risk-of-sexual-abuse-when-using-vr-technology/>

## Children's social care

NSPCC Learning has published the second podcast episode in a two-part series on children's social care in England. The episode features experts from the NSPCC and focuses on proposals set out in the government's strategy 'Stable homes built on love' published earlier this year. Discussion points include: reforms to family support services; the effects of a family-first approach to children's social care; and potential barriers to implementing reform.

Listen to the podcast: [Podcast: What's next for Children's social care in England?](#)

Visit the YouTube: [What's next for children's social care in England? A practical perspective](#)

## School attendance

The Department for Education (DfE) has updated its guidance on working together to improve school attendance for schools, academy trusts, governing bodies and local authorities in England. Updates to the guidance include: a toolkit to support schools with communicating with parents and carers about attendance; and example letters and emails that schools can use for parents and carers.

Read the guidance for schools: [Working together to improve school attendance](#)

Read the guidance for parents: [Guidance for parents on school attendance](#)