



A Warm Welcome Back

It has been a real joy to welcome our children and families back to Sacred Heart for another exciting year together. The school has quickly been filled with happy faces, enthusiastic learners and a wonderful sense of community. We are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into their new classes, embraced new routines and approached their learning with such positivity and determination.

Over the past few weeks, classrooms have been buzzing with curiosity, creativity and hard work. The children have shown kindness to one another, taken pride in their learning and demonstrated the values that make Sacred Heart such a special place to be. It has been wonderful to see new friendships forming, familiar friendships growing stronger and children supporting one another every day.

We would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to all our parents and carers. We understand that for many families, particularly those who are new to our school or new to the country, starting a new school year can feel exciting but also a little overwhelming. Thank you for your patience, support and partnership.

Together, we have made a fantastic start to the year. By working as a school family, we can continue to help every child grow in confidence, achieve their potential and feel valued, safe and happy at school.

Thank you for being such an important part of our Sacred Heart community.



Mrs James
Headteacher



Mrs Sexton
Deputy & Co
Headteacher

A prayer for our Sacred Heart community

As we comes back together, let us renew our commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart: to live and learn in hope and joy, keeping the spirit of God alive in our community.

Bless our educators and school staff with wisdom, patience, and compassion. Renew their passion for their calling and remind them of the profound impact they have on the young lives in their care.

Remind us that as many hands build our school, so many loving hearts build our school community.

Unite us in our shared faith and purpose.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place all our trust in you.

Amen.



Autumn Census Day – Every Child Counts

Our **Autumn School Census Day** is taking place on **Thursday 1st October**, and we would like to ask for your support.

The information collected on Census Day helps determine the funding our school receives to provide additional resources, learning opportunities and support for our children. It is one of the ways that schools receive the funding needed to help every child flourish and achieve their very best.

Being in school on Census Day is really important, so please ensure your child attends if they are well enough to do so.

If your child is eligible for **Free School Meals (FSM)**, we would be especially grateful if they could enjoy a school lunch on Census Day. Even if your child usually brings a packed lunch, choosing a school meal on this day can make a real difference. The information gathered helps secure valuable funding that supports children across our school community through:

- Additional teaching and learning support
- Resources and equipment
- Educational visits and enrichment opportunities
- Wellbeing and pastoral provision
- Targeted support for pupils who need it most

If you think your child may be entitled to Free School Meals but have not yet applied, please contact the school office. Many families are surprised to discover that they qualify, and registering can bring additional funding to the school at no cost to you.

As a school family, every child really does count. Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide the very best opportunities for all our children as we continue to **live and learn in hope and joy**.

[Link for online application to Free School Meals:](#)

[Free school meals | Leicester City Council](#)



Whole school Mass to start our new school year.

Fr David led our first whole school mass of the year. It was a wonderful celebration welcoming the whole school community back together to start another successful year of learning, growing and keeping the spirit of God alive in our community.

Thank you to Fr David for always supporting our children during this most special of times together.





Commissioning of the Chaplaincy Team

We have successfully appointed a dedicated Chaplaincy team, which has been entrusted with the great responsibility of nurturing young leadership. This spiritual leadership allows our students to take charge in leading their peers during Catholic worship, fostering a deeper understanding of faith and spirituality.

Throughout the year this new Chaplaincy team will play a pivotal role in instilling the mission and ethos of our school, encouraging every student to embody our core values of living and learning in hope and joy, keeping the spirit of God alive in our community



Thank you to our School Chaplain, Deacon Seamus for blessing our children.



Whole School Mission

This year, we are bringing our whole school community together through a weekly **Whole School Mission**, inspired by the themes in the Church's Ordo. Each Monday, children explore the weekly theme and are encouraged to put it into action through simple acts of kindness, respect and service.

One of the highlights of our week is hearing pupils share their experiences during our **Friday Good Work Assembly**. It has been wonderful to see how enthusiastically children have embraced these missions, talking confidently about the positive difference they have made to others and reflecting on the impact of their actions.

These moments remind us that faith is not just something we learn about, but something we live. It has been fantastic to see **Catholic Social Teaching in action** throughout our school community as our children put Gospel values into practice every day.

This month's themes have been:

- Welcome
- Encounter
- Outreach
- Dialogue

Thank you to Mrs Noronha, our Prayer and Liturgy Lead, and Deacon Seamus, our Lay Chaplain. Through their guidance, support, and witness to the faith, our children are growing in the light of Christ and deepening their relationship with God.

Thank you for supporting us in helping our children become caring, compassionate and active members of our Sacred Heart family. ❤️

Whole School Prayer and Liturgy led by Year 6

Ordo Theme: Outreach

Ash Class led our whole school collective worship around Outreach. Our mission to go out and make others smile was definitely seen with the joy that the singing gave to us all, it was beautiful to hear the whole school joining together in song.





Marvellous Manners

You may notice your child bringing home a Marvellous Manners certificate. We encourage you to ask them why they received it and celebrate their achievement! We are so proud of the kindness, respect and excellent manners our children show every day. They are wonderful ambassadors for Sacred Heart, and their efforts do not go unnoticed.

MARVELLOUS MANNERS

At Sacred Heart, we use kind words every day!

F1 THANK YOU

F2 PLEASE and THANK YOU

Y1 YOU'RE WELCOME

Y2 HOLD THE DOOR "AFTER YOU"

Y3/4 WELCOME TO SACRED HEART

Y5/6 CAN I TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT OUR SCHOOL?

SHAMROCK TEAM Please and Thank You Signs

PLEASE

THANK YOU

Kind Words Warm Welcomes Marvellous Manners

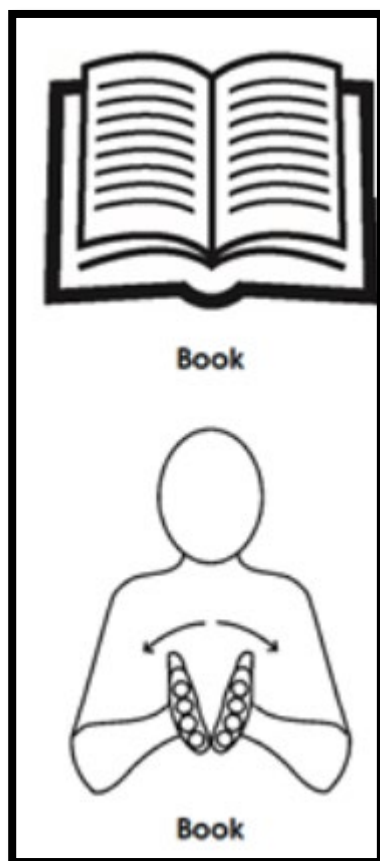
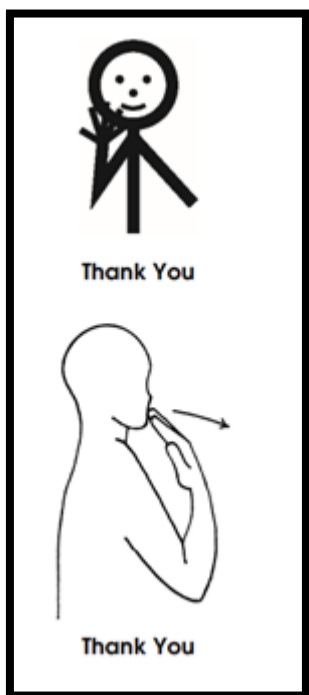
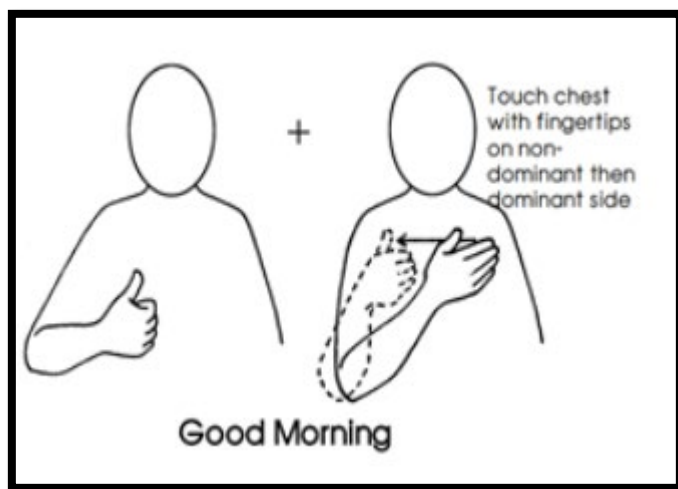
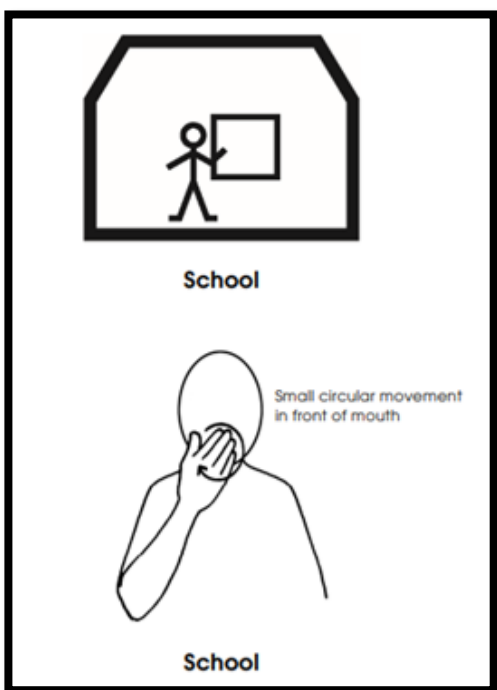


Makaton Sign of the Week

We are excited to be learning Makaton across our school! Each week, children are introduced to a new sign and have been enjoying practising them with their friends and teachers. Makaton helps us communicate in different ways and supports our aim of making everyone feel included, understood and valued.

Can you learn and use these signs together as a family this week?

Here are some signs we have been learning this month:





Attendance Matters

- We understand that children will sometimes be unwell and need time to recover. However, regular attendance is essential for children to make the most of their learning and to stay connected with their friends and school community.
- Children are required to attend school for **190 days** each academic year.
 - Our attendance target for every child is **95% or above**.
 - Every day in school counts, and even small amounts of absence can have an impact on learning over time.

If your child is well enough to attend school, please ensure they are in school every day and arrive on time.

Our Attendance Policy can be found on the school website, where you can find further information about attendance expectations and procedures.

The table below indicates the numbers of days and lessons missed as attendance decreases.

Attendance percentage	Days missed	Lessons missed
100%	0	0
99%	2	10
97%	5	25
95%	10	50
93%	14	70
90%	20	100

Appendix 2: Key attendance thresholds and legal intervention

Measure	Threshold	School response
Persistent absence	10% or more absence, with at least 20 possible sessions	Early identification, support and targeted intervention.
Severe absence	50% or more absence, with at least 20 possible sessions	Intensive support, multi-agency working and consideration of Local Authority involvement.
Penalty Notice threshold	10 sessions of G/N/O/U absence within 10 school weeks	Case-by-case decision; support first where appropriate, with Notice to Improve or Penalty Notice where appropriate.

Need Support with Attendance?

We understand that there can be times when getting your child into school feels difficult. If you are experiencing challenges with your child's attendance, please speak to a member of our school team. We are here to help.

Our staff will work alongside you and your child to understand any barriers to attendance and explore ways to make coming to school easier and more positive.

Please don't struggle alone. The earlier we know about any concerns, the sooner we can offer support. Together, we can help your child attend regularly, feel happy in school, and achieve their very best.



Term Dates

Here are the term dates for 2026-2027



Term dates 2026—2027 v2



AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
31																				
NOVEMBER							DECEMBER							JANUARY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30																				
FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
							29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		
MAY							JUNE							JULY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
31																				

Term Dates are also available on the school website

<https://www.sacredheart.leicester.sch.uk/term-dates/>

Advent Term Dates

Wednesday 26th August – School opens for Advent Term 1.

Monday 31st August – Bank Holiday – school closed.

Tuesday 1st September – Whole School Mass 1:30pm

Thursday 1st October – Autumn School Census Day

Wednesday 14th October – Parents Evening 1:30pm start

Friday 16th October – Last day of Advent Term 1 .

19th– 23rd October – School closed for half term.

Monday 26th October – School opens for Advent Term 2.

Thursday 29th October – Celebrate Collective Worship in your child's class – more information to follow

Monday 16th November – Anti Bullying Week begins

Wednesday 18th November – Odd Sock Day!!!

****Friday 20th November – School Closed for Trust Training Day****

Wednesday 25th November – SH Open Afternoon for new parents for children starting F2 September 2027 1:30pm – 2:45pm

Friday 18th December – Last day of term.



Have Your Say with *The Big Future* Survey



Dame Rachel de Souza
Children's Commissioner for England

We have been contacted by **Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England**, who is inviting all children and young people to take part in her national survey, **The Big Future**.

The survey gives children the opportunity to share their views about their lives, their experiences and their hopes for the future. The information collected will help build a national picture of what matters most to children and young people and will be used to ensure their voices are heard by Government.

The survey only takes a few minutes to complete, and we would encourage all of our pupils to take part.

👉 **Complete the survey here:**

[The Big Future Survey](#)

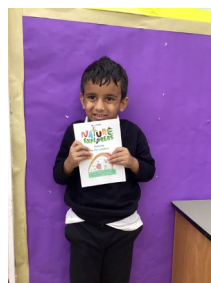
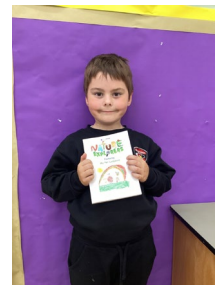
Every child's voice matters, and this is a wonderful opportunity for the children of Sacred Heart to share their thoughts and help shape the future for children across England.

🎨 **Published Young Artists!** 🐞

A huge congratulations to 12 of our children who were in F2 last year whose artwork has been selected for publication in the ***Young Artists: Nature Explorers – My Pet Ladybird book***.

The project encouraged children to use their creativity and imagination to design their own ladybirds while exploring the wonders of nature. We are delighted that 12 Sacred Heart pupils have had their artwork chosen to appear in a published book alongside entries from children across the country.

What a fantastic achievement at such a young age! We are incredibly proud of our talented young artists and hope this inspires them to keep creating and dreaming big.





First Holy Communion

Our First Holy Communion Programme runs from September to May each year. Preparation Classes are every fourth Sunday of the Month at 10.15am at Sacred Heart Church with the 11.3am Mass to follow. First Holy Communions then take place in May and June at each of our churches. If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion with us, please complete the attached and send it by email to the parish.

<https://holyfamily-leicester.rcdon.uk/sacraments>

The Sensory First Holy Communion Preparation begins in January.



Sun 10th January: Sensory Friendly 11.30am Mass at SH Church
Adapted Mass offering an insight for all parishioners at The Baptism of The Lord Feast

11.00am 1st Holy Communion Preparation

11.30am Sensory Friendly Mass

At Sacred Heart School - Mere Close, Leicester, LE5 3AH

- Sat 16th January: Welcome to God's Family
- Sat 27th February: Lent ~ In the Wilderness
- Sat 13th March: Forgiveness ~ Death & Resurrection
with First Reconciliation informally after Mass
- Sat 17th April: New Life & Easter
- Sat 22nd May: Mary's Yes to God

At Sacred Heart Church - 25 Mere Road, Leicester, LE5 3AS

- Sat 5th June: God's Greatest Gift of Holy Communion
- Sat 26th June: First Holy Communion Day
with a practice before Mass



♥ SACRED HEART CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY ♥

F2 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2027



FOUNDATION 2 (RECEPTION)

Starting School in September 2027 For children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023



Applications Open 1 September 2026



Closing Date 15 January 2027 (Midnight)



National Offer Day 16 April 2027

APPLY THROUGH YOUR HOME LOCAL AUTHORITY



Leicester City Council - [School admissions | Leicester City Council](#)



Leicestershire County Council- [Apply for a school place |](#)

[Leicestershire County Council](#)



WHY CHOOSE SACRED HEART?



A caring Catholic community



High expectations and high achievement



Inclusive and welcoming for all families



Strong relationships and pastoral support



Living and learning in hope and joy



DON'T MISS THE DEADLINES!

Application Deadline



Secondary School (Year 6) 31 October 2026



Reception / F2 15 January 2027

Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy "Live and learn in hope and joy, keeping the Spirit of God alive in our community."



♥ SACRED HEART CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY ♥

YEAR 7 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2027

Don't Miss These Important Dates!

🎓 YEAR 6 TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Applying for September 2027

📅 Applications Open 1 September 2026

🔴 Closing Date 31 October 2026 (Midnight)

✅ National Offer Day 1 March 2027

✚ APPLYING FOR A CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL?

Don't Forget the Supplementary Information Form (SIF)

If you are applying for a Catholic secondary school, you will usually need to complete:

✅ The **Local Authority online application**

AND

✅ The school's **Supplementary Information Form (SIF)**

The Supplementary Information Form helps Catholic schools apply their admissions criteria correctly and may be required to support your application.

Important

📌 Complete and return the form to the **Catholic secondary school's office** by their stated deadline.

📌 Completing the SIF **does not replace** the Local Authority application. Both forms must be submitted.

⚠️ **Failure to submit the Supplementary Information Form may affect how your application is considered.**



Dance Club

Our Bollywood Dance Club is in full swing! The children are engaged, having fun and growing in confidence every week. 🇮🇳



Eco Club

During our Eco Assembly on Friday 11th September, last year's Eco Champions handed over their roles to our new team. We look forward to seeing the difference they will make this year. 🌍
Eco-Schools Award

We are proud to have achieved the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction for the third year running. 🌱



YOU'RE INVITED!

Parents, come into your child's classroom to

celebrate our class collective worship

A chance to come
together as a
school community
to reflect on the
Ordo of
that week...



Holiness

Growing in love,
living as Jesus
taught us.



Let's take time
together to
listen, reflect,
give thanks and
support one
another.

⇒ All family members are invited! ⇒



DATE:

Thursday
29th Oct



TIME:

2:30pm



WHERE:

Child's classroom

(go to your child's
normal exit and you
will be shown where to go).



Together in faith, together in love, together as one school community.

♥ We can't wait to see you! ♥



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so enthralls young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK ... and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

Algorithms rank content by user interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss who they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds: if alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across unsuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces: involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at. Be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound pings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practise mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area at home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert

Shazia Sarwar-Azim is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of *The Rainbow Within*, a book which supports children with SEMH needs.



Sources: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-63204605>
<https://sproutsocial.com/insights/social-media-algorithms/>



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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