



'Our school, our church, our community'

## Elsecar Holy Trinity Primary School

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Elsecar Holy Trinity is a **nurturing, inclusive**, Church school where everyone is **valued** as a child of God. We warmly **welcome** people of all faiths/worldviews and backgrounds, fostering **respect, compassion** and **forgiveness**. Rooted in **faith, family** and **community**, we aim to **grow** together in love, developing **wisdom, knowledge** and **aspirations** for a **brighter future**.

### \*Weekly Reflection\*



Despite the gloomy weather outside, there's been a wonderfully bright and positive atmosphere around school this week.

Classrooms have been full of energy, kindness, and curiosity, and it's been a pleasure to see children supporting one another and diving enthusiastically into their learning. From small acts of thoughtfulness to big moments of achievement, the school community has certainly brought its own sunshine—whatever the skies have been doing!

### \*British Values\*

Does how we behave matter as much as how well we play?



### \*PTA Events\*



Tickets can be purchased on Arbor

### \*Attendance Matters\*

Well done to this week's attendance WINNERS!

**YEAR 3**  
**(99.55%)**

Whole school attendance:

**95.17%**

Year to date:

**94.96%**

School Target:

**96%**

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 96% and above | GOOD                |
| 91% - 96%     | CAUSE FOR CONCERN   |
| 90% and below | PERSISTENTLY ABSENT |

### \*In the Spotlight – Y1\*

This week we have been retelling the story of Stickman using paper puppets. Some children are using time words to order the events in a story. In maths we have been using base 10 to recognise numbers from 11 to 20. In RE we have begun learning about things that are important to Jewish people.

In PE we are learning how to control a football with our hands and feet. Finally, we have designed and created a new piece of playground equipment



### \*Dates for the diary\*

#### February

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Class Photos

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Children's Mental Health Week

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Valentine's Disco

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Last day of term

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Back to school for all

#### March

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March

British Science Week

Year 5 Bikeability (takes place during school day)

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Red Nose Day

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Service at 09:30AM

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Last day of term

#### April

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Back to school for all

### \*Jesus Blesses the Children\*

One of the Bible stories that beautifully reflects our school's vision is the moment when Jesus blesses the children. In the story, families bring their children to Jesus so that he can place his hands on them and pray for them. Although some adults try to turn the children away, Jesus stops them and says that the children should be welcomed, valued, and included. He shows that every child is important and deserves care, time, and love.

This message sits at the heart of who we are as a school. Just as Jesus recognised the worth of every child, we too strive to create a community where every pupil is seen, heard, and appreciated for who they are. The story reminds us that children bring joy, curiosity, honesty, and hope—and that they deserve a place at the centre of everything we do.

The link below is the animated version we share with children in school.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBovRBNZ2JQ>





At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

# 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.

Emojis are more than playful expressions — they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this 'secret code' is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

### 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.



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