

Our Values

Together we:

- Care for each other
- Laugh with each other
- Learn from each other
- Celebrate with each other
- Are safe, responsible and respectful



How do we keep you safe at Handsworth Grange Community Sports College?



Safeguarding and what you need to know



Keeping you safe at school

ALL adults in school have a responsibility to ensure that you are safe from harm.

They have a responsibility to provide you with a safe environment to learn and for you to be able to speak out if you want to share worries about yourself or a friend or even a family member.

All staff in school are trained in safeguarding and are able to identify pupils who may need help.

Every school has an adult who is in charge of Safeguarding and at Handsworth Grange Community Sports College this is Bev Ramsey.



How we keep you safe when you are online at school

Handsworth Grange has a security system installed on all the computers in school. This is called Smoothwall. This system will block your access to any sites that we feel are not suitable for you or we feel may be unsafe. We regularly view Smoothwall reports and can see which pupils have tried to access which websites even if they have been blocked. So for instance if you were trying to continually access a website about drugs, we may want to have a conversation with you about this.



We have a Child Protection and Self Harm policy on the school website for you to read.

If you want more information or wish to speak to someone about anything in this leaflet or your rights to confidentiality, please go to Bev Ramsey in the Safeguarding Office.

Confidentiality

Whilst there are some things that adults in school can't keep confidential for you, there is also a lot that we can.

The member of staff you talk to will want to know that you are firstly safe and free from harm and then if you don't wish for home to be contacted then this is usually ok.

If you are **12 years old or under** then you are seen as being more vulnerable and at risk, so any concerns arising of a sexual nature (legal requirement) or self-harm (school policy) would not be kept confidential and would need to be shared with parent/carers or Social Care.

If you are **13 years and older** we are allowed to keep these issues private if we feel that you are safe.

Only certain members of staff in school will be able to make decisions about confidentiality and assess if you are safe when it comes to issues of a sexual nature and/or self-harm, so remember that whoever you chose to speak to may need to pass this on within school.

Staff members will not discuss private issues about individual pupils without their consent and will only speak to other members of staff if they need to **keep you safe**.

Your teachers are not given private information about you unless you or your parents/carers have given consent and then this would be only given to teachers or other members of staff who would need to know this information in order to help you.

What harm and abuse can children suffer from?

Abuse is the harm that can be inflicted on children and young people by another adult or even by another child or young person.

Abuse falls into four categories:

Physical Abuse

hitting, punching, kicking, shaking, throwing, poisoning, scalding or burning, drowning, suffocating.

Emotional Abuse

bullying/cyberbullying, being told you are worthless, inadequate or unloved. Being made fun of, not being listened to, not being allowed to participate in normal social interactions.

Sexual Abuse

being forced or enticed to take part in any sexual activity, being made to view sexual activities or in the production of sexual activities, including online.

Neglect

A failure to meet your basic needs which may affect your health or development. This could be food, shelter, clothing, access to medical care, not being protected from physical, emotional harm and danger.

What happens if we discover a pupil is suffering from abuse?

If you tell a member of staff that you are being harmed in any way or that you intend to harm someone else or even intend to harm yourself they will have to pass this on to the person in charge of Safeguarding in our school.

They **DO NOT** have a choice in this and are not allowed to keep it confidential.

The person in charge of safeguarding will then need to speak with parents/carers (if it is safe to do so) and with Social Care.

A Social Worker will then advise on the next course of action which will all depend on what it is you have said and what has happened to you or to someone else.

If you wish to know more about Social Care and what they do then please ask Bev Ramsey in the Safeguarding office.

Remember that it is not up to school to investigate anything you say because that is the role of the Social Worker and Police if necessary.

You will be fully supported by school in all these processes and you will be kept fully informed of what is happening along the way.

We are here to support you, and your best interests will always be put first.

What happens if you tell us you are unhappy or sad about something?

If you can speak to someone at home about what is worrying you or making you feel unhappy this is always the best option and they can contact school on your behalf if you wish.

You can also talk to any member of staff about anything that is worrying you or that is making you unhappy. It is up to you to decide who you feel comfortable talking to. There are some members of staff in school who are fully trained to support you in these areas and another member of staff may want to speak with them for some guidance or support in how to help you.

If you do not know who to speak to you should firstly go to your form tutor or Head of Year, they will then be able to help you decide which type of support would be right for you.