

Parent / Carer Safeguarding Newsletter

April - May 2024

Welcome to the first edition of our safeguarding newsletter. Keeping children safe at Handsworth Grange Community Sports College is our number one priority, we know that the most effective way for us to support our young people is to work in partnership with their parents / carers.

With context and risks changing all of the time, we thought parents may find it beneficial to have access to information and guidance on key topics and how to access support. We look forward to regularly sharing updates with you.

At Handsworth Grange Community Sports College, we have a highly qualified and experienced team who are available to support you with any concerns or worries you may have. Please don't hesitate in contacting the safeguarding team directly or by requesting a contact at <https://hgsc.co.uk/contact>.

Welcome to the safeguarding team:

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs G Hirst

Deputy Headteacher - Inclusion

Mrs Hirst is also the Designated Teacher for Children Looked After, as well as our Online Safety Coordinator.



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Chloe Reeves

Safeguarding and Inclusion Manager

Chloe is one of the Senior Mental Health Leads in school, as well as Prevent Lead.



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Rochelle Roberts

Safeguarding Officer

Rochelle is the Young Carers Lead, as well as one of the Senior Mental Health Leads.



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Sophie Lewis

Family Liaison Officer

Sophie liaises with local police and completes home visits.



HANDSWORTH GRANGE
COMMUNITY SPORTS COLLEGE

Online safety

As well as keeping children safe in the “real world,” the online world creates another layer of risk that our young people may be exposed to. Keeping on top of changes and developments can feel daunting at times. To support parents and carers to keep up to date with online safety and to offer handy hints and tips we have signed up to the National Online Safety platform, if you follow the link below you will be able to get help and information on all aspects of online safety.

<https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/handsworth-grange-community-sports-college>

Please select 'parent account'.



Vaping

Nationally there has been an increase in the amount of young people who are vaping. To address this and to ensure that our students have the most up to date information, we have delivered sessions during PSHE on the topic to try to dispel the many myths surrounding vaping. The NHS Smokefree Service will be hosting a lunch time stall on 9th May 2023 to educate students about the dangers of vaping.

One of the biggest concerns around vaping is that young people often do not know what substance is in the device they are vaping from, and this may include illegal substances including THC which can be incredibly dangerous to young people. An organisation called the Corner have been in school to complete assemblies to provide further education around the risks of vaping and illicit substances that can be found in vapes.

We really value parental support in maintaining our school expectation of no vapes or smoking materials being brought onto school site.



A useful website you can use when talking to your child about the risks of vaping is talk to Frank, here is a link to their page on vaping: <https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/vapes>



Exam stress

As our Year 11 students enter the exam period, we understand that this can be a time of worry and stress for some of our young people. School staff are ready and prepared to listen to and support our young people around any worries they may have around their exams as we want to ensure that they are emotionally prepared to do their very best.

Young Minds have put together some useful tips and advice for young people themselves and for parents and carers to be as prepared as possible to support young people around exam time.

Parent Link:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/how-to-help-your-child-manage-exam-stress/>

Student Link:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/>





Online safety - explicit images

Unfortunately, we are seeing an increase in young people who are sending or receiving explicit images of themselves or others. Not only is this illegal and could lead to the criminalisation of young people, it also creates a great deal of distress and upset for children and parents/carers. Once an image has been sent, there is very little control over what happens to it and where it ends up.

During last term, South Yorkshire Police Community Safety Team delivered assemblies to our students to educate them on the law and risks of sending / receiving explicit images, or re-distributing someone else's explicit image. Healthy relationships and consent are a major part of sex education in our school, where this issue is further explored in more depth.

The NSPCC have created a **Report Remove** Tool. This tool has new powers under the new Online Safety Bill and it will ensure all public versions of the image are removed from the accessible web.

The capability of the tool is limited and cannot remove pictures from individual phones or private groups, however it will ensure that every time the picture is reposted it will automatically be removed. Parents and carers can use this tool as well as young people themselves.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/report-remove>

Please remember the best thing you can do to protect your children from online harm is to:

- Regularly monitor their online activity
- Ensure appropriate parental controls and age restrictions are on electronic devices
- Have open conversations with your child about what they and their friends are doing online
- Regularly discuss and educate your child of the risks of being online

Period poverty

With the cost of living crisis, we know that families are finding managing finances extremely difficult.

At Handsworth Grange Community Sports College, we provide a wide range of free sanitary products for all students. We have allocated spaces in school where students can come and collect sanitary products, each month, no questions asked. Students are welcome to collect from the:

- safeguarding office
- student reception
- Head of Year offices
- PE office



Other financial support available...

The safeguarding team can offer confidential support with issues around finances. We can make referrals to the Food Bank and explore other financial support that may be available to you. We can signpost to other specialist services and charities that could help you and your family.

Please reach out, we're here to help!

