

# Parent / Carer Safeguarding Newsletter

Sept – Oct 2025



Welcome back to this new school year and to our halftermly safeguarding newsletter. Keeping children safe at Handsworth Grange Community Sports College is our number one priority and we know that the most effective way for us to support our young people is to work in partnership with their parents / carers.

The risks children and young people face change all the time, we therefore thought parents may find it beneficial to have access to information and guidance on a range of topics and how to access support when needed. We will share information throughout the school year, however the contact information for the safeguarding team is also attached at the end of this letter should you need any support.

At Handsworth Grange Community Sports College, we have a highly qualified and experienced team who are available to support you with any worries you might have. We appreciate

the long summer holidays can be a time of stress for some families, please do get in touch if you need to discuss anything that may have occurred for your young person over the summer break.

**HANDSWORTH GRANGE**  
COMMUNITY SPORTS COLLEGE

## Support for parents / carers of children with Autism.

There is a free parenting course in Sheffield starting on 22nd September 2025 for parents / carers of children with Autism. The programme explores ways of managing behaviour, raising self-esteem and confidence.

The programme is running till 1st December 2025 and taking place at The Burton Street Foundation, 57 Burton Street S6 2HH. The sessions run from 10am till 12.15pm.

The group is run by parent volunteers who reflect on their experiences and skills.

If you are interested in taking part in the group, you can find our more on the Sheffield Parent Hub website:

<https://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/sheffield-parent-hub/parent-hub-events/being-a-parent-epc-autism-1292/>



## Young Carers

A young carer is a child or young person who provides care for a relative who has disabilities, long term physical illnesses, mental health difficulties or drug and alcohol issues. A young carer may be taking on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that an adult would normally take on.

Here at Handsworth Grange Community Sports College, we are dedicated to identifying and supporting young carers in school. Rochelle Roberts is our Young Carers Lead and works closely with Sheffield Young Carers. As a school we have been recognised for all that we do for our young carers and have achieved the Bronze Award from the Carer's Trust.

Rochelle has a young carers monthly meet in school which takes place every last Thursday in the month. If your child has been identified as a young carer, they will be informed by Rochelle about where and when the group will meet in school.

Rochelle works hard at the start of each academic year to identify who our potential new young carers are in Y7. Rochelle will deliver an assembly for all Y7s and explain the Caring Questionnaire which they will complete during form time. We will then be in touch with you to discuss any further support your child may need if they have selfidentified as a young carer in the process.

We like to celebrate our young carers for the fantastic work that they do, we see their caring responsibilities as something to be extremely proud of. Last June we put on our Y7 young carers event, this year the theme was a day at the seaside. Please see the pictures attached on the event.

If you would like to speak about the possibility of your young person being a young carer, please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of the safeguarding team. Or alternatively, you can check out the Sheffield Young Carers website:

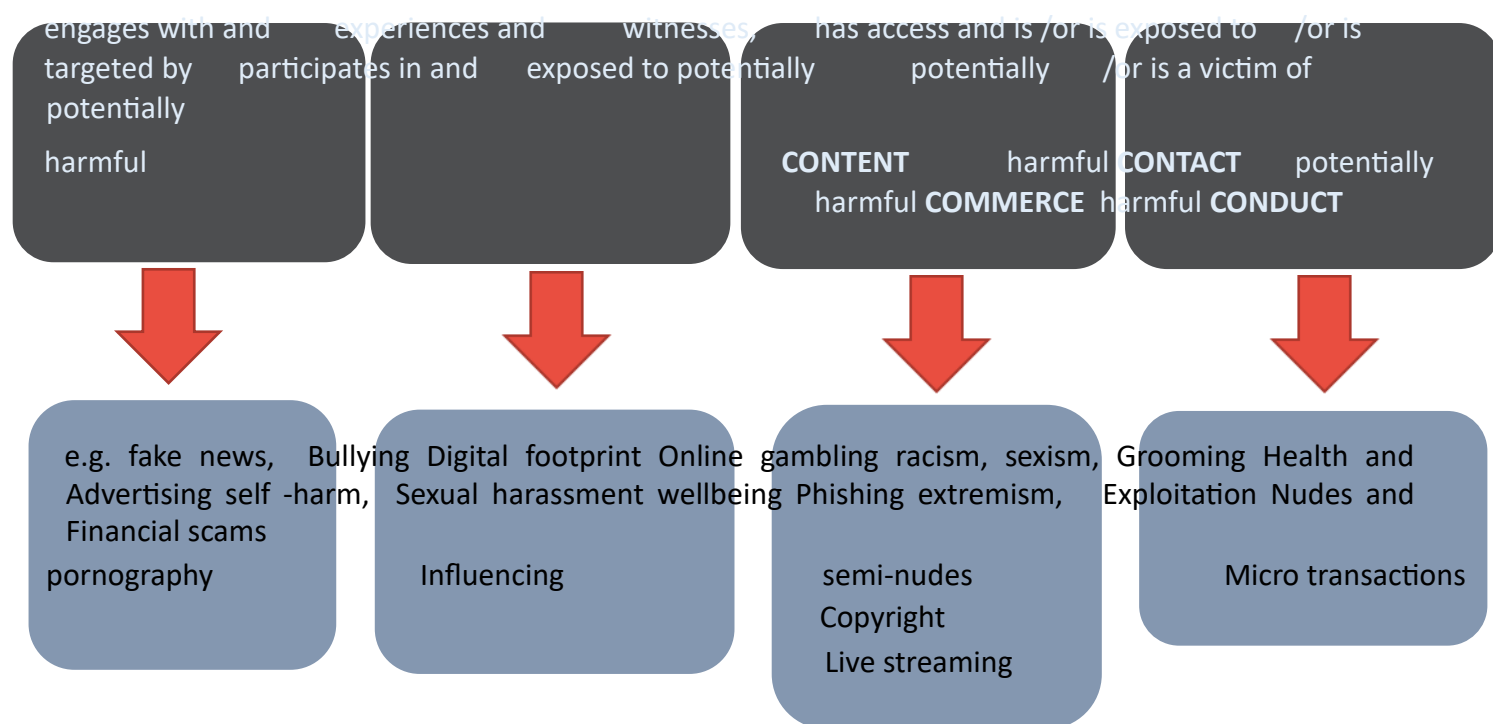
**<https://www.sheffieldyoungcarers.org.uk/>**



## Online Safety

The internet is an amazing place and offers so much opportunity, but it also presents risks and challenges for children and young people. We want to help keep your child safe online and support them to learn how to get the most out of the online world.

Students at Handsworth Grange Community Sports College learn about the risks and responsibilities of online safety through both our Computing and safeguarding curriculum. Our students also have assemblies and form time activities around the safe use of technology. Part of this is covering the **4 Cs** of online safety risk classification. This recognises that online risks arise when a young person:



## How to report harmful content?

There is a website you can use to report harmful online content: <https://reporthearmfulcontent.com/>

They can also support you and your young person if you have experienced or witnessed harm online. They provide lots of support and guidance around when you should contact the police or even just finding out more about what the types of harmful content are online.

There is also a space for reporting child sexual abuse imagery or terrorist content.



## Sextortion

'Sextortion' is a form of online blackmail where criminals will pose as someone else online, to trick someone into sending indecent images of themselves. Once they have such images, they will then threaten to post these images online if they do not receive money.

What national crime statistics are showing, is that it is mostly young men aged between 15-17 who are most at risk of being sextorted.



## Suicide risk

Sadly there are cases in the UK of young men dying of suicide due to being sextorted, due to the shame and worry they experience when being blackmailed online.

## How can we keep our young people safe?

As parents / carers, it is vital to create a space at home for open conversation with your young person. Start a conversation about sextortion at home and ask your young person what they think and feel about it, they may not want to talk but let them know you are there if ever they need to. This way they may be more likely to speak up if they do get into any trouble online.

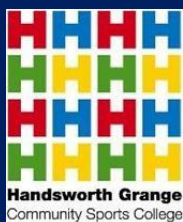
Reassure your young person that it is never their fault if they have been the victim of sextortion, South Yorkshire Police state that the victim should never feel to blame and have done nothing wrong. South Yorkshire Police understand that this is a difficult crime to report, but they are reassuring victims that they are there to help and such crimes should always be reported.

## How to spot sextortion:

Criminals often target young people on social media apps such as Instagram or snapchat, they also use online dating apps or porn sites. Criminals use fake identities online to befriend the victim and will try to start a sexual conversation quite quickly. Criminals may also use deepfakes to blackmail victims, deepfakes are digitally manipulated images using AI which mimic a real person or scene.



Jordan Stephens from Rizzle Kicks has released a Channel 4 documentary called ***'Hunting my Sextortion Scammer'***. This is a useful documentary explaining the issue, exploring the risks and showing young people how to spot criminals online. It is also a beneficial watch for parents in showing just how easy it is for young person to be targeted online.



# Handsworth Grange Safeguarding Team

Here at HGCSC, we believe in exceptional education for every student every day and as such Every Person Matters.

We all must take responsibility for looking after each other and making sure we are safe and happy.

If you are worried about something or someone then you should share it. The

**Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at HGCSC is Mrs Hirst**



Designated Safeguarding Lead / Designated Teacher for Children Looked After / Online Safety Coordinator  
Deputy Headteacher

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The Deputy Safeguarding Leads are Chloe Reeves, Rochelle Roberts and Sophie Lewis



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