

Parent / Carer Safeguarding Newsletter

**Nov - Dec
2025**



Welcome back to this half term's safeguarding newsletter for this academic year. Keeping children safe at Handsworth Grange Community Sports College (HGCSC) 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 highlight 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 HGCSC, we have a highly qualified and experienced team who are available to support you with any worries you might have. We are also very lucky at HGCSC to have members of staff across all school areas with a range of different subject areas and experience, whether this is in the SEND team or pastoral team, or within the wider Teaching group.

We appreciate that Christmas is only around the corner, and this can be an incredibly challenging time. We often miss our loved ones at Christmas or can struggle with the pressure / parent guilt of having the perfect Christmas. Please do get in touch if this time of year is going to be difficult for your child or family as we're here to ensure you have all the support you need.



Getting Teenagers to Cooperate

There is a free parenting webinar on 4th December 2025 for parents / carers of teenagers. This is being run by the Sheffield Parent Hub.

The webinar includes parent discussions on commonly encountered problems and offers tailored advice. They look at why teenagers are so uncooperative and how to manage difficult teenage behaviour.

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

<https://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/sheffield-parent-hub/parent-hub-events/getting-teenagers-to-cooperate-1319/>





OPERATION ENCOMPASS

In every force. In every school. For every child.

We are an operation encompass school which means that South Yorkshire Police will send us an alert if they have attended a student's household for domestic abuse.

Section 49a of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a legal requirement on police forces to share an operation encompass alert with schools and other educational establishments.

Domestic Abuse

The Police recorded 1,350,428 domestic abuse related incidents and crimes in England and Wales in 2024. Police haven't released official figures for this year yet; however they suspect the number of incidents has risen again. Domestic abuse can have a devastating impact on the victims and their families, with children and young people at risk of serious harm in terms of their emotional and physical wellbeing. Since the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, children that have been exposed to domestic abuse are now recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right, rather than just witnesses.

We know that the Christmas holidays can be a huge trigger for families due to the stress and pressure involved in the run up to the festive period. We wanted to share some important services that will be open over the Christmas break who you can go to for help. In emergencies you should always call 999.

Refuge is the largest domestic abuse organisation in the UK. Contact them online or call their freephone 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000247.

Sheffield IDAS is a specialist charity in Yorkshire that supports anyone who is experiencing, or is affected by, domestic abuse or sexual violence. Their freephone is 0808 808 2241.

Childline offers free, confidential advice and support to all children, whatever your worry. Contact them online or on their freephone on 0800 1111.

Live Fear Free provides help and advice about violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Contact them online or call their freephone 0808 80 10 800, or text 07860077333.



International Men's Day 2025

It was International Men's Day on 19th November 2025. This day was dedicated to recognizing the contributions and challenges faced by men in society and the theme this year was 'supporting men and boys'.

We were fortunate to have two representatives from the Community Youth Team to come into school to run some workshops for some of our KS4 male students. As pictured below, Aaron Daniels and Matt Allen talked about all things that impact boys and men in society today. It was a chance for students to debate and to recognize each other's difficulties, as well as provide support for one another.

The overarching themes for the workshops explored

- promoting a positive conversation about men, manhood and masculinity
- making a positive difference to the wellbeing and lives of men and boys
- exploring healthy relationships

Aaron also runs the Handsworth Youth Club which takes place every Monday evening 6pm-8pm at:
Handsworth Methodist Church
289A Handsworth Road
S13 9BN

There is always free food and activities each week.



Alcohol misuse and underage drinking

On the 21st October 2025, we had *Smashed Live* in school for Y7 and Y8. These are a group of actors who completed a performance to show the dangers of underage drinking. The performance followed the lives of three teenagers and explored the decisions they made; it was interactive and involved our students debating issues around alcohol risk, peer pressure and asked them to think about how they can keep themselves safe.



The Corner

On 23rd October 2025 we also had representatives from the Corner, James Hunter and Molly Evans, in school to deliver a lunch time stall,

They provided education around drugs and alcohol misuse and signposted students to support if necessary.

The Corner are based at 91 Division Street, Sheffield S1 4G.

The Corner also have a dedicated family worker who can support parents and carers if you are worried about your child's alcohol or substance misuse, or if you would like support and guidance on how to have difficult conversations with your young person. They can be reached on 0114 275 2051.



Alcohol support over Christmas

We know that the festive period is equally a very triggering time for adults who struggle with alcohol misuse. If you are struggling with alcohol misuse then there's lots of support available in Sheffield, and services will be open over the Christmas break.

Likewise is a drug and alcohol support service in Sheffield who operate on values of 'no judgement, no pressure and no expectations'.

You can reach Likewise via 0114 308 7000, their phone lines are open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.

Alternatively, the **Samaritans** 24/7 helpline will be open over the Christmas break and they can be reached on 116 123.



Smokefree Sheffield

On the 16th October we had Smokefree Sheffield in school to educate children on the dangers of smoking and vaping.

Aleksandra Lenart (pictured left) can work with children confidentially on a one-to-one basis in school or outside of school.

Often children don't understand the impact of nicotine on their health or see the dangers in using legal or illegal vapes, Aleksandra was on hand to dispel any myths.

Smokefree Sheffield also work with adults to quit smoking and vaping, you can self-refer 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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