



## SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

The aim of this newsletter is to give parents/carers and students updated information on all areas of safeguarding.

Each term we will focus on a key area identified within the national agenda.

If you would like any questions answering on the topic of safeguarding, please do not hesitate to contact the designated safeguarding leads at school. Please see overleaf for names and details.

### WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

Safeguarding is a term which is broader than 'child protection' and relates to the action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Safeguarding is defined in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' as:

- ⇒ protecting children from maltreatment
- ⇒ preventing impairment of children's health and development
- ⇒ ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and
- ⇒ taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

People who work with vulnerable groups, including children, must always act in their best interests and ensure they take all reasonable steps to prevent harm to them. Having safeguards in place within an organisation not only protects and promotes the welfare of children but also it enhances the confidence of trustees, staff, volunteers, parents/carers and the general public.

The necessity to safeguard children applies both to charities working in the UK and other countries where children may face different or additional risks of abuse or exploitation. These safeguards should include a Child Protection Policy and procedures for dealing with issues of concern or abuse. For the purposes of child protection legislation the term 'child' refers to anyone up to the age of 18 years.

#### FIRST RESPONSE

- Have you got a serious concern about the safety of a child or young person up to the age of 18?
- Do you think a child or young person is being harmed or is at risk of being harmed?
- Are you worried that a child is living in circumstances where they are treated badly and not cared for properly?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions and you don't believe that the child or young person is being supported by a Social Worker, please contact the **First Response Service** immediately:

**Tel: 0800 1313 126**    **Emergency out of hours: 0345 604 2886**    **Email: [firstr@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:firstr@staffordshire.gov.uk)**



# Sir Graham Balfour School

Member of Sir Graham Balfour Multi-Academy Trust

## Safeguarding

Sir Graham Balfour Multi Academy Trust is committed to taking action to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults receiving education at school.

### The Personal, Development & Welfare Team (Pastoral)

Designated Safeguarding Leads in the school are:



**Fiona Hartley**

Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Senior Assistant Headteacher  
Head of PDW



**Rachel Hedges**

Deputy Safeguarding Lead  
Student Support Officer



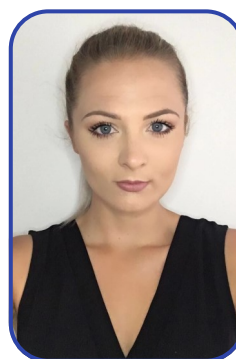
**Sarah Marshall**

House Head  
Chetwynd



**Ruth Tinsley**

House Head  
Sandon



**Paige Austin**

House Head  
Tixall



**Emily Simmons**

House Head  
Weston

## PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC (PSHE)

**Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education** is a school curriculum subject in England which focusses on developing the knowledge, skills and attributes to keep children and young people healthy and safe and to prepare them for life and work.

PSHE education is defined as a planned programme to help children and young people develop fully as individuals and as members of families and social and economic communities. Its goal is to equip young people with the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthily, safely, productively and responsibly.

The Department for Education (DfE) state that “all schools should make provision for PSHE, drawing on good practice” and that PSHE education is “an important and necessary part of all pupils’ education”.

### Please see our PSHE Programme that has been taking place over the Autumn Term

<u>IAG</u>	<u>Re-Solv</u>	<u>Murder Games</u>	<u>Road Safety</u>	<u>Puberty</u>
An opportunity to support the IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance) offered to each and every student in our school community.  This session will introduce students to 'Unifrog'	A UK charity that offers support and advice to young people on the subject of solvent abuse. This session aims to offer guidance to under 18's on staying safe at all times and ending solvent abuse across the UK.	The BBC documentary was made to create an awareness for students around the all potential issues with online grooming and online gaming. This documentary is based on the true story of a 14 year old, Breck Bednar.	This session is delivered by Staffordshire County Council.  Each session is age appropriate and delivers clear messages and information about staying safe on the roads in and out of vehicles.	This session is led by our Student Welfare Officer Mrs Hedges, who is also a former school nurse.  The aim of this session is to build upon the information given at Primary School and offer any advice and guidance about 'growing up'.

#### Autumn Term 2019

<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b> IAG - Year 11.	<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b> IAG - Year 10	<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b> IAG - Year 9	<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b> IAG - Year 8	<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b> IAG - Year 7
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b> Re-Solv - Year 11	<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b> Re-Solv - Year 10	<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b> Murder Games - Year 9	<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b> Murder Games - Year 8	<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b> Puberty - Year 7
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b> Normal Maths Lesson to take place - Year 11	<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b> Road Safety - Year 10	<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b> Road Safety - Year 9	<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b> Road Safety - Year 8	<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b> Road Safety - Year 7

### Criminal Exploitation

The Children's Society, along with many other organisations, are working to disrupt the activity of criminal gangs and keep young people safer. They work with the police to stop county lines activity and recognise the young people that have been exploited by criminal gangs as victims, not criminals.



The Children's Society has developed resources for parents and professionals if they are worried a young person is involved in county lines.

#### Criminal exploitation: A guide for parents

This parents' guide can be found by copying and pasting the below link into your internet browser:

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/cce-advice-for-parents.pdf>

## ATTENDANCE

Good attendance is vital to raising standards in school and to ensure every pupil reaches their potential. Every pupil is entitled to a full time education.

The government expects schools to promote good attendance and reduce absences.

Parents have a legal obligation to ensure their child's regular attendance at school.

Further information about this can be found in The Department for Education website [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

We understand that students are absent from school for a variety of reasons and often this includes genuine illness, urgent medical appointments and other essential absences.

**Please** help your child by trying to maintain their attendance above 97% as this is our school target. This would mean if your child had more than 6 days off in a school year, their percentage would be less than 97%.

**We would like to thank you for your continued support with regards to attendance.**



One of the most important things that I can tell you, for your child to achieve academic success is also one of the most basic:

### *Going to school every day*

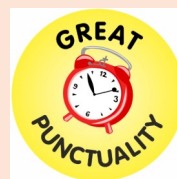
**Attendance = Achievement**

**96% is deemed as good by Ofsted, if your child just misses one day a fortnight they will only achieve 90%.**

Research has shown that your child's attendance record may be the biggest factor influencing their academic success and in life after education.

Sir Graham Balfour's education welfare support is provided by a company called **Attend EDC (Every Day Counts)**.

All staff employed by Attend EDC have DBS clearances in order to work with children. Should your son/daughter have attendance difficulties you may receive a home visit from Attend EDC in order to address any concerns they may have.



## BE PUNCTUAL

<b>School starts:</b>	8.45am
(All students should be on site)	
<b>Period 1 starts:</b>	8.50am
<b>Late:</b>	8.51– 9.00am

If you arrive after 8.50am you **MUST** sign in at Reception.

If you arrive after 9.00am without good reason this will be an Unauthorised late. It is important that your child brings a note explaining their absence.

**Lunch:**  
1.30 - 2.20pm.

Bell is rung at **2.15pm** and all students should be in class at 2.20pm for registration.



## ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Create more happiness in the world

**Action for Happiness** wants to take action to increase wellbeing in homes, workplaces, schools and local communities. The vision is a happier world, with fewer people suffering with mental health problems and more people feeling good, functioning well and helping others.

**Action for Happiness** promotes **10 Keys to Happier Living**.

Everyone's path to happiness is different. Based on the latest research, it has been identified that these **10 Keys to Happier Living** consistently tend to make life happier and more fulfilling.

Together they spell "GREAT DREAM".



## GREAT DREAM

Ten keys to happier living

- GIVING** Do things for others
- RELATING** Connect with people
- EXERCISING** Take care of your body
- AWARENESS** Live life mindfully
- TRYING OUT** Keep learning new things
- DIRECTION** Have goals to look forward to
- RESILIENCE** Find ways to bounce back
- EMOTIONS** Look for what's good
- ACCEPTANCE** Be comfortable with who you are
- MEANING** Be part of something bigger

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

[www.actionforhappiness.org](http://www.actionforhappiness.org)

## National Anti-Bullying Week - 11th—16th November 2019

The theme this year is 'Change Starts With Us'

The goal of the Anti-Bullying Alliance was to inform schools and settings, children, parents and carers to know that it takes a collective responsibility to stop bullying.

In addition, we want to create empowering, positive messages addressing the fact that

when it comes to bullying, Change Starts With Us. At Sir Graham Balfour, the Peer Mentors led assemblies on this topic and launched the whole school competition, to create and design an inspirational message.

All entries will be displayed around school in the Spring term.



## Hollie Guard - New Personal Safety App

This is a free app designed to protect children, men and women from possible danger.

The app turns your smartphone into an advanced personal safety device at the touch of a button. If in danger simply shake your phone to generate an alert, your location, audio and video evidence of the incident will automatically be sent to your emergency contact via text and email. Shake it again it send out a high pitched alarm and the flash starts to strobe, in order to attract maximum attention.

From the moment the Hollie Guard is activated, your location is tracked and can be viewed in real time by your emergency contact. Evidence is not stored on the smartphone but on secure servers so that can be used as future evidence.



Please ask your children to download this app.

Works with  
iPhone

Available on the Android  
App Store

Windows  
Phone

## UNICO LIVE

West Midlands Police has been made aware of an App called "UNICO LIVE". The app is publicised as age restricted 12+ and designed for young people to upload videos of themselves performing, singing and dancing etc.; we have been made aware that there is inappropriate content on the platform involving young people which is being investigated.

The content does not appear to be monitored and we urge you as parents/carers to monitor your child's use of such apps.



UNICO LIVE - Live Stream, Live Video & Live Show

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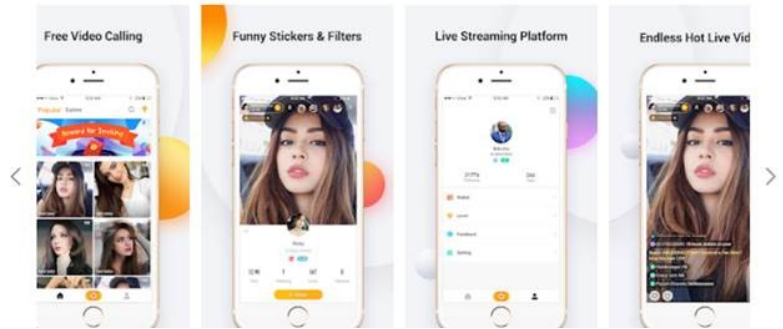
★★★★★ 8,765

Parental guidance

Offers in-app purchases

Add to wishlist

Install



## Sir Graham Balfour Peer Mentor Programme

In September 2019 Mrs Hartley re-launched the Peer Mentor group via a series of assemblies. During these assemblies, students were introduced to the concept of the role of Peer Mentor and students were invited to apply to become a peer mentor.

We received some fantastic applications, and 30 students from years 9 to 11 have taken up these posts.

The aim of the group is to be a guide for all new students; organise whole school activities i.e. events during National Anti-Bullying week; run weekly Games Club; plan and organise all school fundraising activities; and ultimately be a role model and student advocate.

