SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

Any concerned member of the public can use this

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 2015 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.
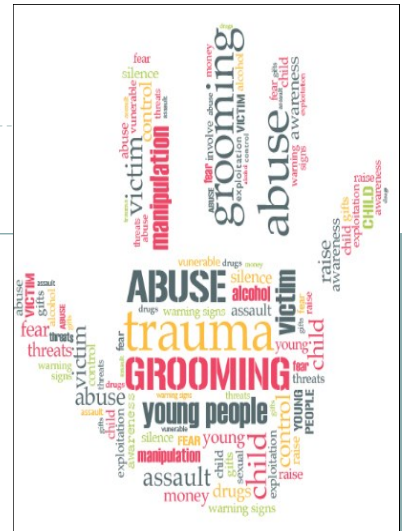
FIRST RESPONSE

- 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

PARENTS GUIDE TO PROTECTING YOUR CHILDREN ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Raising a teenager is no picnic! On one hand, you want to respect boundaries and give your growing child the freedom to make—and learn from—their own mistakes. On the other hand, you want to do everything in your power to protect your child from… well, everything.

When it comes to online safety, social media has its own unique set of problems for teenagers… and it can go far beyond the online predator horror stories. That's why it's important as a parent to be involved with your teens' use of social media

Let's be honest, most parents have their own Twitter or Facebook account.

Not every parent is involved in social media. If your teen is using social media… that is a good reason why you should be too.

Even if you don't use social media actively, you should agree to being friends with your teen so you can routinely check and see their posts. Not only will this give you a chance to see what's really going on in their mind (because social media can bring out a passive aggressive behaviour and teenagers are especially likely to Facebook their problems instead of facing them) but you can also recognize inappropriate behaviour or posts, such as posting personal information.

Note that Facebook has a filtering feature that can allow teenagers to hide certain posts from parents or other adults. Use your best judgment to determine if your child might be filtering the posts that you see.

While we're being honest, most teenagers use another social media site more than Facebook or Twitter.

Most parents are surprised to learn that their child has social media accounts on sites you probably didn't even know about. Talk to your child and make sure you know every site they are using and how those sites are used.

Here are some of the most popular social networking sites used by teenagers:
* Facebook   * Snapchat   * Twitter
* Twitter   * Instagram   * G+ (Google Plus)

Open communication.

Parents who openly communicate with their children are more likely to receive the same approach in response. It is critical that your teenager feel safe in talking to you, because fear of punishment can result in isolated or rebellious behaviour.

During the difficult teenage years, your child will want to test boundaries. They will want to do and say things that you would not approve of. This is basic human nature. It's important that you understand and respect this, while letting them know they can talk to you about *anything.*

At the same time, you should lead by example and initiate those difficult discussions with your teen. Even if you only get one-word responses, they are still listening… and it establishes a comfortable environment for open communication in your home.

It is also important to have a discussion about mobile/smart phone safety, where kids can access social media site with ease and outside the watchful eye of parents. This raises issues of mobile phone safety.

Practical privacy.

Keep computers in a "public" location, rather than in their bedroom. At your discretion, it may be a good idea to routinely check computer and phone history and require that you know the passwords to all of your teen's accounts… but keep in mind that infringing on their right to privacy may only push them further away.

In a nutshell, trust your child enough to give them leeway and don't violate their privacy without justifiable cause. However, maintain the *ability* to check up on your teen if they begin to show suspicious behaviour.

Establish boundaries.

Boundaries, rules, and guidelines can be applied to behaviours that are allowed on social media… as well as the amount of time allowed to spend on social media. Teenagers with smart phones tend to be more interested in the cyber world and oblivious to the real world around them, but as a parent you can set the rules to prevent this from happening.

Stay informed of the threats.

Internet safety is about so much more than online predators or identity theft. In fact, teenagers are not the only vulnerable internet users.

Even parents can make mistakes on social media!!! Did you know that you should never brag about an upcoming holiday, and when you take a holiday you should wait until you return home to post pictures?

Information taken from: *http://www.safesearchkids.com*

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 Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Leads in the school are:

Fiona Hartley
Safeguarding Lead

Rachel Hedges
Deputy Safeguarding Lead

House Heads

Sarah Marshall
Chetwynd

Simon Trenbirth
Sandon

Anne-Marie Brinsdon
Tixall

Chris Parry
Weston

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

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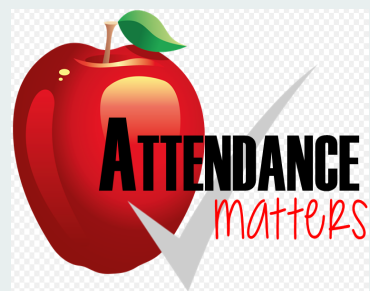
One of the most important things that I can tell you, for your child to achieve academic success is also one of the most basic:

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 now 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

School starts: 8.45am **(**All students should be on site)

Period 1 starts: 8.50am

Late: 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. You must provide a note from your parents.

Lunch: 1.30 - 2.20pm.

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