



HIGHSTED GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Issue 001: September 2016

Contents

1. Safeguarding Mission Statement
2. Highsted Grammar School's Safeguarding Responsibilities and Contacts 2016-2017
3. Highsted Grammar School's Safeguarding Events 2016-2017
4. Safeguarding Strategies for 2016-2017
5. Guidance for Parents / Carers
6. Links for further information and guidance

Safeguarding Mission Statement

In accordance with the Children's Acts of 1989 and 2004 and the Education Act 2002, and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016, Highsted Grammar School has a duty to assist local authority specialist children's services departments acting on behalf of children in need or enquiring into allegations of child abuse. Highsted Grammar School follows a child centred and coordinated approach to safeguarding. A 'Culture of Vigilance' has been fostered, where it is agreed by all that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Highsted Grammar School firmly believes that it has a strong pastoral responsibility to promote the welfare of children and that children have a right to be protected from harm; this is consistent with our overall aims to educate the whole pupil and foster personal as well as academic development.

Safeguarding Responsibilities and Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr Daniel Quinn

Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Miss Anne Kelly

Telephone: 01795 424223

Email: safeguarding@highsted.kent.sch.uk

Website: www.highsted.kent.sch.uk/safeguarding

Twitter: @SafeguardingHGS

Safeguarding Events 2016-2017

- 1-31 Oct 2016: Black History Month
- 10-14 Oct 2016: Hate Crime Awareness Week
- 14-18 Nov 2016: Anti-bullying Week
- 25 Nov-10 Dec 2016: Action against Domestic Violence
- 30 Jan 2017: Safeguarding Fortnight
- 1-28 Feb 2017: LGBT History Month
- 3 Feb 2017: NSPCC Numbers Day
- 7 Feb 2017: Safer Internet Day
- 7 Feb 2017: Online Safeguarding Evening
- 22-28 Feb 2017: Eating Disorders Awareness Week
- 18 March 2017: Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day
- 15-19 May 2017: Mental Health Week

Safeguarding Strategies for 2016-2017

Women's Aid defines domestic abuse as an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, by a partner or ex-partner. It is very common. In the vast

majority of cases it is experienced by women and is perpetrated by men.

Domestic abuse can include, but is not limited to, the following:

- *Coercive control (a pattern of intimidation, degradation, isolation and control with the use or threat of physical or sexual violence)*
- *Psychological and/or emotional abuse*
- *Physical abuse*
- *Sexual abuse*
- *Financial abuse*
- *Harassment*
- *Stalking*
- *Online or digital abuse*

Domestic abuse is a gendered crime which is deeply rooted in the societal inequality between women and men. It takes place "because she is a woman and happens disproportionately to women." (United Nations, 2003) Women are more likely than men to experience multiple incidents of abuse, different types of domestic abuse (intimate partner violence, sexual assault and stalking) and in particular sexual violence. Any woman can experience domestic abuse regardless of race, ethnic or religious group, sexuality, class, or disability, but some women who experience other forms of oppression and discrimination may face further barriers to disclosing abuse and finding help.

Domestic abuse exists as part of violence against women and girls; which also includes different forms of family violence such as forced marriage, female genital mutilation and so called "honour based crimes" that are perpetrated primarily by family members, often with multiple perpetrators.

The 24hr freephone National Domestic Violence Helpline (run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge) is available on **0808 2000 247 24 hours a day, 7 days a week**. It is answered by fully trained female helpline support workers and volunteers who will answer your call in confidence. All calls to the helpline are free from mobiles and landlines.

Before you call

Be sure that you are safe when you call the helpline. This means that the perpetrator of the abuse is not in the same property as you (*even if they are in another room, the garden or asleep*). The helpline worker needs to ensure you are not overheard to keep you safe from harm. It's important to be aware that the perpetrator of the abuse may overhear your call and any information provided by the helpline worker. **Be prepared to not get through immediately**

Warning: if you are worried about someone knowing you have visited the Woman's Aid website please read their 'cover your tracks online' section (www.womensaid.org.uk/cover-your-tracks-online) for advice on how to safeguard yourself online.



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Operation Willow is the name of the Kent and Medway awareness raising campaign around Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The campaign links with the nationwide Say Something if You See Something campaign, which aims to bring this kind of abuse to an end. Calls can be made using the 101 number quoting Operation Willow or anonymously via the free 24/7 Say Something Helpline on 116 000, if you are concerned that a young person might be at risk of CSE. Further information can be found through: <http://www.stop-cse.org/>.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) also known as 'female circumcision' or 'cutting' is a term for procedures which partially or totally remove external genital organs, or cause injury to them, for cultural or non-medical reasons. **FGM is considered to be child abuse in the UK.** While some parents may not think it's harmful, it's medically unnecessary, extremely painful and has serious health consequences. A number of girls die from blood loss or infection. In the longer term, they're twice as likely to die in childbirth, and four times more likely to give birth to a stillborn child. **FGM offences can lead to 14 years in prison.**

The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 makes it illegal to:

- practice FGM in the UK
- assist a girl to mutilate her own genitalia, whether in the UK or abroad
- take British Nationals or permanent UK residents abroad for FGM whether or not it's lawful in that country

If you're concerned someone is in immediate danger of FGM call us on 999.

Alternatively contact Kent Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555111** or the NSPCC FGM helpline on **0800 028 3550**. If you believe a girl you are concerned about has already been taken abroad, contact the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on **020 7008 1500** or if overseas, call **+44 (0)20 7008 1500**.

The Prevent strategy aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. While it remains rare for children and young people to become involved in terrorist activity, young people from an early age can be exposed to terrorist and extremist influences or prejudiced views. As with other forms of safeguarding strategies, early intervention is always preferable. If you are concerned about the radicalisation of a young person or other family members please refer the case to the County Channel Panel (channel@kent.pnn.police.uk) or call Kent police on 101 (or +441622 690690 if calling from outside Kent). For advice and support please contact nick.wilkinson@kent.gov.uk, the county lead for the Prevent strategy.

Guidance for Parents / Carers

The safeguarding page of our school website (www.highsted.kent.sch.uk/safeguarding) is designed to offer support and advice to young people, parents/carers and

all those who engage with the school, whatever the capacity. Within it you will find information about our school safeguarding policies, advice on a range of safeguarding issues, which include:

- Highsted's safeguarding e-bulletins
- Self-harm: Young Minds support packs for parents/carers and young people
- CEOP/'Thinkuknow' factsheets for parents/carers
- UK Safer Internet Centre resources
- Parent Zone Digital Parenting Magazine (Issues 1-4)

[Links for further information, guidance and support](#)

If you think a child is at immediate risk call 999

NSPCC:

Call: 0808 800 5000 (24-hour free helpline)

Text: 88858

Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Web: www.nspcc.org.uk

Childline:

Call: 0800 1111

Online: www.childline.org.uk/registration

Web: www.childline.org

Samaritans:

Call: 116 123

Email: jo@samaritans.org

Web: www.samaritans.org

National Self-harm Network:

Call: 0800 622 600 (7pm-11pm)

Web: www.selfharm.co.uk

Stop Hate Crime:

Call: 0800 138 1625 (24-hour helpline)

Web: www.stophateuk.org

Stop LGBTQ Hate Crime:

Call: 0808 801 0661 (24-hour helpline)

Web: www.stophateuk.org

National Domestic Violence Helpline/ Women's Aid:

Call: 0808 2000 247 (24-hour free helpline)

Email: helpline@womensaid.org.uk

Web: www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk

Web: www.womensaid.org.uk

NWG Network (Stop CSE):

Call: 01332 585371

Email: jointhefight@stop-cse.org

Web: www.nwgnetwork.org

FGM/HBV Helpline:

Call: 0800 028 3550 (24-hour free helpline)

Email: fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

Web: www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm