



HIGHSTED GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Issue 003: January 2017

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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 Fortnight 2017

"Every child deserves the best possible chance to rebuild their life after abuse" (NSPCC).

Child abuse is any action by another person – adult or child – that causes significant harm to a child. It can be physical,

sexual or emotional, but can just as often be about a lack of love, care and attention (neglect). We know that neglect, whatever form it takes, can be just as damaging to a child as say physical abuse.

An abused child will often experience more than one type of abuse, as well as other difficulties in their lives. It often happens over a period of time, rather than being a one-off event. And it can increasingly happen online. The five-year average rates for child deaths from homicide or assault have declined in all 4 UK nations. Police recorded 47,008 sexual offences against children in the UK in 2015. This represented the highest number of recorded incidents over the past decade. In the past year the total number of children subject to child protection plans (CPPs) or on child protection registers (CPRs) increased in the UK, as did the total number of children becoming subject to plans or being added to the register.

Grooming is a word used to describe people befriending children in order to take advantage of them for sexual purposes.

*Online grooming and the dangers of speaking to people online – **Kayleigh's Love Story***

Kayleigh Haywood began speaking to Luke Harlow, a man she had never met, on 31 October 2015. Over the course of 13 days they exchanged 2643 messages. Harlow told the 15-year-old all the things many teenage girls want to hear. He told her she was beautiful, how much he cared for her and that she was special. Harlow was grooming Kayleigh, along with two other young girls he had also been speaking to. But it was Kayleigh that finally agreed to his requests to spend the night of Friday 13 November 2015 at his house. She spent the next day with him too, and in the early hours of Sunday 15 November, having been held against her will by Harlow and by his next door neighbour Stephen Beadman, Kayleigh was raped and murdered by Beadman.

With the support of Kayleigh's family, Leicestershire Police has made a film about aspects of the last two weeks of her life.

Kayleigh's Love Story is as a warning to young people, both girls and boys, about the dangers of speaking to people they don't know online. The film highlights just how quick and easy it can be for children to be groomed online without them or those around them knowing it is happening. Its purpose is to protect children now and in the future and to stop another family losing a child in this way. The film lasts around five and a half minutes and is available to view now. The film was made by Affixius Films in Loughborough and was shot in various locations across Leicestershire and in Nottingham. The film and the trailer both contain warnings. **If either were to be screened at a cinema, they would carry a 15 certificate.** The film can be found at: <https://leics.police.uk/categories/kayleighs-love-story-film>



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Online Grooming - Information for parents

What is online grooming?

Online grooming refers to the deliberate actions taken by an adult to form a trusting relationship with a child with the intent of later facilitating sexual contact. Sexually explicit messages, images and videos may be exchanged and the offender may entice the child by sending them gifts or money. This can take place in chat rooms, instant messaging, social networking sites and email. Offenders will contact dozens of young people, communication will quickly become sexually explicit and any positive response will be seized on. The grooming process can take a matter of hours or years.

What are the signs my child is being groomed online?

The majority of children who are online are not being abused and never will be. The following activities could be perfectly innocent, but it is worth being alert to potential signs:

- Becoming secretive with their phone or computer
- Excessive use of their phone or computer
- Showing aggression if asked about their online use
- Change in the use of sexual language
- Unexplained gifts or cash.
- Changes in your child's behaviour may also act as indicators and these can include:
 - A change in your child's self-esteem and self-confidence
 - Withdrawal from family and friends
 - Difficulties at school
 - An increased level of anxiety
 - Sleeping and concentration difficulties
 - Becoming excessively concerned with washing and cleanliness.

There are some steps you can take to protect your child from being groomed online and places you can go for more information.

Can I restrict what access my child has online?

The Think U Know website has a really useful guide which explains what to do. The best way to ensure your child is safe is to talk about it together, tell them your concerns and ask your child to show you what they do online to reassure you. I'm worried my child has formed a friendship online with someone I don't feel comfortable with. If you've spoken to your child and you're still worried then you could try speaking to one of their friends, teachers or someone who knows who your child is speaking to. You might find it helpful to show your child the Think U Know site which explains the dangers of sharing personal details online or the risks involved in meeting up with someone they have met online.

I am worried about the amount of time my child spends on social networking sites. What can I do?

Most young people use social networking sites as a quick, easy and cheap way of communicating with each other. As

long as your child is careful about the information they share online the risks to their own safety are greatly reduced. Ensure you understand how these sites work and how to keep yourself and your child secure.

If you are concerned about your child call the police on 101

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/GBV 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

EACH:

EACH has a freephone Actionline for children experiencing homophobic bullying

Call: 0808 1000 143 (Monday to Friday 10am-5.00pm)

Web: <http://www.eachaction.org.uk/>