



## HIGHSTED GRAMMAR SCHOOL

### SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

**Issue 006: December 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

**Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Mrs Tiernan-Powell (*from 4 January 2018*)

**Deputy Safeguarding Lead:** Miss Anne Kelly

**Telephone:** 01795 424223

**Email:** [safeguarding@highsted.kent.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@highsted.kent.sch.uk)

**Website:** [www.highsted.kent.sch.uk/safeguarding](http://www.highsted.kent.sch.uk/safeguarding)

**Twitter:** @SafeguardingHGS

#### Social Media Concern

The following advice has been written by the Kent Education Safeguarding Team with approval from the Kent Police POLIT team.

We have received a number of reports from schools relating to a video of child abuse circulating on a variety of popular social media sites which has been sent to young people in Kent and beyond: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-42238873>. This issue predominantly involves secondary schools, however primary schools or early years settings could be affected where children have older siblings.

The police are aware of the video and appropriate safeguarding action has been taken to protect and identify the children involved. However conflicting and inaccurate information is believed to have been shared online; Schools

need to be vigilant to such concerns, but we would encourage you to take a proportional and informed response.

Pupils should also be supported in deleting the content (if appropriate) and to block and report any accounts sharing the video to the social networking site or app involved. The Think U Know and Safer Internet Centre website have information on privacy settings and reporting methods: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) [www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/social-media-guides](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/social-media-guides)

#### Christmas Crime Menu

Christmas is a busy time of the year for everyone, including the criminal. However, a high percentage of crime is opportunist in nature, so we are seeking your assistance in preventing this type of crime.

##### a) Starter: YOUR CAR

**Presents, etc., left in view.** Do not leave gifts unattended in your car, especially overnight and certainly do not leave anything on view at any time.

**Sat Nav's and laptops.** When you leave your car take them with you. Remember to remove the tell-tale suction mark off the windscreen.

**Parking.** Park in well-lit locations or in an attended car park.

**Travelling.** Carry warm waterproof clothing, food, water and a torch in your vehicle, in case weather conditions mean you have to stop. Make sure you have plenty of fuel for your journey before you set off.

##### b) Main: YOUR HOUSE

**Ensure all gifts are kept out of view.** Avoid putting presents under the tree until nearer the time, especially if they are visible to passers-by (close the curtains).

**Lock doors and windows.** Avoid leaving handbags and car keys near windows and doors. Never leave them downstairs at night - take them to bed with you.

**If you are going away.** Cancel milk and papers, use a timer to switch lights and radios on and off. Perhaps a neighbour can go in, open and close the curtains each day, and check there is no mail or 'free' newspapers on view.

**If in doubt keep them out.** Before you open your door to strangers, use a door chain. At all times only invite those you know into your home. If you are not happy send callers away, if they are from a reputable company they will always call back.

##### c) Dessert: YOUR PROPERTY

**Do not advertise to a burglar.** After Christmas dispose of clearly identifiable packaging from your recent/expensive presents. Dispose of boxes safely. Turn them inside out or



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tear up the boxes for recycling (making sure the description of the item cannot be seen through the plastic bags) - even better take all the packaging to your local tip. This may be time well spent in avoiding the potential distress which a burglary would bring.

**Mark your property.** Use an ultra violet pen and mark with your postcode and house number. You can register your valuables free on the following web site:

[www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

**Buying online.** Make sure you only use secure web sites for online payments.

Have a Happy and Crime Free Christmas and New Year!

#### Free School Meals

If your child is under 19 and in full-time education, you may be able to get free school meals for them. The quickest and easiest way to apply for school meals is to apply online.

a) Who can get them?

Your child must attend a maintained school (most schools in Kent are maintained schools) or receive alternative education approved by Kent County Council.

Children attending private or independent schools can't get free school meals.

You must receive one of these benefits to qualify:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (not including Working Tax Credit) - if the household income is below £16,190
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- an income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 if you are an asylum seeker

Evidence of benefit may be requested after you apply.

You can apply online at:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals#tab-2>

*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](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

Web: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

#### **Childline:**

Call: 0800 1111

Online: [www.childline.org.uk/registration](http://www.childline.org.uk/registration)

Web: [www.childline.org](http://www.childline.org)

#### **Samaritans:**

Call: 116 123

Email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

Web: [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

#### **National Self-harm Network:**

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

Web: [www.selfharm.co.uk](http://www.selfharm.co.uk)

#### **Stop Hate Crime:**

Call: 0800 138 1625 (24-hour helpline)

Web: [www.stophateuk.org](http://www.stophateuk.org)

#### **Stop LGBTQ Hate Crime:**

Call: 0808 801 0661 (24-hour helpline)

Web: [www.stophateuk.org](http://www.stophateuk.org)

#### **National Domestic Violence Helpline/ Women's Aid:**

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

Email: [helpline@womensaid.org.uk](mailto:helpline@womensaid.org.uk)

Web: [www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk)

Web: [www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)

#### **NWG Network (Stop CSE):**

Call: 01332 585371

Email: [jointhefight@stop-cse.org](mailto:jointhefight@stop-cse.org)

Web: [www.nwgnetwork.org](http://www.nwgnetwork.org)

#### **FGM/HBV Helpline:**

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

Email: [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk)

Web: [www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm](http://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/>