



HIGHSTED GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Issue 005: July 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

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an

imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Further Guidance on CSE can be found on the Kent Safeguarding Children Board website:

<https://www.kscb.org.uk/guidance/sexual-abuse-and-exploitation>

NHS England #ItCouldHappenToMe Campaign

NHS England North and NHS England National CSE Health Sub-Group in partnership with young people from Northumberland "A Team" and working with Northumberland Youth service have developed a range of materials and information for young people regarding Child Sexual Exploitation.

These excellent resources developed by the "A Team" demonstrate how co-production with young people is critical in educating young people about CSE on how to seek advice and support. The resources were launched in December 2016 at the NHS England North Safeguarding Conference and will be showcased at NHS England's National Safeguarding Conference in April 2017.

The "A team" won a national award for this work at the recent National Working Group (NWG) conference.

Developed as a partnership throughout Northumberland County Council, the #ItCouldHappenToMe campaign has been developed to include; posters, wallet cards, wristbands, leaflets and online resources, all providing information about recognising child exploitation and what to do if you think it is happening to you or someone you know.

The campaign has been developed by a group of young people, aimed at young people, to help them understand that child exploitation can happen to anyone with tools to help recognise the difference between a healthy or unhealthy relationship along with providing information about what to do if you need further advice or help.

The materials can be accessed via:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Campaigns/ItCouldHappenToMe-campaign.aspx>

Female Genital Mutilation and Breast Ironing

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-



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medical reasons. It has no health benefits and harms girls and women in many ways.

FGM is child abuse and a form of violence against women and girls, and therefore should be dealt with as part of existing child and adult safeguarding/protection structures, policies and procedures.

For more information on FGM:

http://www.proceduresonline.com/kentandmedway/chapters/p_female_gen_mut.html#Protection

Much like FGM, Breast Ironing is a harmful cultural practice and is child abuse. Professionals working with children and young people must be able to identify the signs and symptoms of girls who are at risk of or have undergone breast ironing. Similarly to FGM, breast ironing is classified as physical abuse.

For more information on Breast Ironing:

https://www.kscb.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/55555/Breast-Ironing_policy_briefing_No-164.pdf

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

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

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/>