



HIGHSTED GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Issue 009: March 2019

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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 2018, 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: Mrs Tiernan-Powell

Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Miss Anne Kelly

Telephone: 01795 424223

Email: safeguarding@highsted.kent.sch.uk

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

Twitter: @SafeguardingHGS

Social Media Concern

Momo

Some of you will have seen and heard over recent weeks about MOMO. This is and was a hoax. It is a reminder to us about how quickly these things can spread, and cause upset, fear and concern making the situation worse. These incidents are a useful reminder about the most important messages about keeping safe online, which apply to all websites, games and apps,

- Be aware of age restrictions and why they are in place. Remember just because the guidance says an app or game is appropriate for your child's age group that does not necessarily mean that it is appropriate for your child, their understanding and stage of development.
- Use privacy settings and be aware that when things are posted online, they can always be copied and shared (see below for more on children's understanding of consent online).

- Block and report users or posts that are worrying or upsetting to the website/app involved or the website below
- Remind your children if they are worried or upset by something they see or experience online, then they should talk to a trusted adult.

Consent Online

The UK Safer Internet Centre has published a report looking at young people's experiences of asking for, giving and receiving consent online. Findings shows that

- children may not know they need to seek permission before information is shared online
- did not understand the impact that sharing without consent can have.
- 84% of children and young people believe everyone on the internet has a responsibility to be respectful to others
- 48% said that people their age don't always think before they post something online
- 52% said someone they know shared a photo or video online of them without asking first
- 15% worry about losing control of a photo or video they have shared online.

Online grooming offences New NSPCC figures show that there were 5,161 crimes of sexual communication with a child recorded in the 18 months following April 2017 when this became an offence. With an almost 50% increase in offences recorded in the last six months compared to the same period in the previous year, and a 200% rise in recorded instances of the use of Instagram for this kind of communication over the same time period.

Getting Undressed Online

With the growth of livestreaming by children of all ages, there has been an increase in children receiving requests to get undressed or changed online; with 1 in 20 reporting receiving such requests. This often comes in the form of challenges e.g. Let's see how quickly you can get changed. There is a Lgfl campaign explaining about risks with livestreaming and video chats leading to requests to get change or undressed online and building understanding that this is not appropriate.

Apex Legends

Apex Legends is the new battle royale game and on track to take over from Fortnite as the most popular online game. It has a cartoonish air, but it is quite serious in tone with realistic shooting. It has a PEGI age rating of 12 years. It is free to play but depends on in game purchases and enhancements. More information from the *Independent and Parentzone*

Out-of-school settings

Voluntary safeguarding code of practice

The DfE have just finished a consultation about a voluntary safeguarding code of practice of out-of-school settings. The lessons from child abuse in organised activities have shown



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clearly the risks to children. The DfE identify a non-exhaustive list out-of-school settings:

- Tuition or learning centres
- Extracurricular clubs or settings, e.g. ballet classes, gymnastic training, sports tuition, instrumental music tuition, martial arts training, drama classes, etc.
- Uniformed youth organisations, e.g. the Scouts and Guides
- Open access youth providers, e.g. centre-based and detached youth work
- Supplementary or complementary schools
- Private language schools, including those for children coming from abroad
- Religious settings which offer education in their own faith

There is a document with examples of the kind of safeguarding questions parents might ask about these settings and a list of 'red flags' that they should watch out for which include that:

- Staff are not DBS checked
- No child protection policy
- Signs of abuse on other children who attend the setting, for example, unexplained bruises
- The provider is unable to name a designated safeguarding lead
- The designated safeguarding lead has not had relevant training
- If the OOSS (outside of school setting) allows children access to the internet, no filtering or monitoring systems are in place
- Dangerous physical environment e.g. loose wires, damp, no fire escape, no first aid kit
- No designated first aider
- No parental consent form or requirement for emergency contact details
- Other adults coming into the OOSS who are not staff members/ a lack of clarity on the roles of different adults in the setting
- No health and safety policy
- No fire escape plan

If you are concerned about a child over Easter 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/>