

SAFEGUARDING

NEWSLETTER



25 JULY 2023

Introducing our Hart School Summer Safeguarding Newsletter

Keeping your child/teenager safe over the summer holidays is an important issue for our parents. This newsletter shares key information with parents/carers, staff and students so that we can all work together to keep children safe in school, at home and in the wider community.

Safeguarding relates to many areas of life at The Hart School including children's physical health and safety, mental health issues, attendance, managing medical conditions, internet safety, substance misuse, bullying, child sexual exploitation, the dangers of radicalisation, gang culture, FGM, neglect, domestic violence, forced marriages, sexual relationships, British Values and road safety amongst other issues.

What to do if you are worried about a child or young person:

If you have a serious concern about the safety of a child or young person, you can contact Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support Service on the number below.

If you are concerned that by calling, you may be put in a difficult position, you can make a referral anonymously.

Telephone:

- 0300 111 8007 – Option 1 – you will then be presented with further options depending on the nature of the enquiry.
- Emergency out of hours: [0345 604 2886](tel:03456042886).

If you believe the child to be at risk of immediate harm, this must be reported to the police on 999 or 101.

What is the role of the DSL

The Designated Safeguarding Lead has a crucial role in taking lead responsibility for child protection issues in school. The DSL must be a senior member of the school's leadership team. Mrs Goodall is our Designated Safeguarding Lead and Miss Taylor is our Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead.



Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Goodall
Assistant Principal



Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Miss Taylor



Safeguarding Officer
Miss Sandham
Principal



Safeguarding Officer
Mrs Watt
Attendance Officer



Safeguarding Officer
Mrs Kirby
Student Support



Safeguarding Officer
Mr Lewis
Assistant Principal



Safeguarding Officer
Mrs Godridge
Student Support



Safeguarding Officer
Ms Kinnstein
Exams Officer

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Summer Safety Tips:

Now that summer has finally arrived, your child/teenager will have much more free time than they are used to. This can lead to risk taking behaviours which they wouldn't usually take part in and could be completely out of character. Make sure your child/teenager is equipped with the tools that they need to stay safe—below are some tips:

- 1) Remind your child/teenager never to speak with someone that they do not know. If they see someone suspicious they should immediately either run away (if alone) or go somewhere with other people. Vehicles can be extremely tempting—remind them never to get in a vehicle with a stranger. If someone tries to force them into a car tell your child/teenager to run to a public place or scream loudly to draw attention.
 - 2) Whether they are near a beach, lake, pool or river, children should be aware of water safety. If they are looking for somewhere to swim always look for a life guarded swimming site. Water at open sites can be much colder than children are used to swimming in which can affect their ability to swim and self rescue. If swimming outdoors, always swim parallel to the shore line so that you are never far from it. Currents in the water can be much stronger than it looks. If you get caught in a current, do not swim against it as this will exhaust you. Swim with the current and shout for help. **In an emergency**—ring 999 and ask for the fire and rescue service if inland or the coast guard if at the beach. Don't enter the water to rescue someone else—throw something that floats for them to grab hold of. If you fall in, stay calm, float on your back and call for help. For more water safety advice please click [here](#)
 - 3) Monitor your child/teenager's internet use. During the summer holidays, young people may want to keep in touch with their friends through social networking sites or games. It's a good time to ask them about what sites they use, and check any age requirements as many social media sites require users to be at least 13 years old.
- Encourage your children to use the privacy tools on the services they use, so that the content they post is only available to people they know and trust in real life. To help your children set these up, we have [a guide to the privacy settings on the different sites](#). You can also download the UK Safer Internet Centre's [safety checklists for popular sites](#) such as Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook. Some children may want to share photos and videos of what they are getting up to in their summer holidays online. Talk to your children about what types of photos are appropriate to share, and who they are okay to share with. Photos can hold clues that give away personal information.
- 4) Safety in numbers: Tell your child/teenager to always stay with a friend/group when they are out. This includes when walking to a friend's house or home. If your child/teenager is on the phone as they walk it can divert their attention away from their surroundings and place them unintentionally in danger.
 - 5) Talk to your child about alcohol and drugs. Teenagers can feel under pressure to experiment with alcohol or drugs when with friends. Teens who are talked to about drug and alcohol use by their parents are at a much lesser risk of drug and alcohol use than those parents who don't. Summer time gives children and teens more time to associate with friends that may offer them drugs or alcohol.
 - 6) Stay connected with others: Let someone know about your plans and whereabouts, especially if you're engaging in outdoor activities. Stay connected with friends and family, make sure your mobile phone is fully charged and you have emergency contact details easily available.
 - 7) Trust your instincts: If something doesn't feel right or seems unsafe, trust your instincts and remove yourself from the situation. Your safety and well-being should always be a priority.

From all of the staff at The Hart School—have a happy, healthy summer.