

Safeguarding Bulletin 2022-2023

SUMMER TERM EDITION 5

Welcome and introduction

The safeguarding team would like to thank parents/carers for continuing to work alongside us to keep our children and wider community safe. All concerns raised with us by parents/carers are followed up using our safeguarding processes and systems in school.

We would like to remind parents/carers that anything that they learn of that could put a child or children at risk is shared with the most appropriate professionals. This may involve talking to the school and/or reporting something to social services and/or the police. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and working together is key.

To contact us, please email: thinkpink@lintonvc.org
The College Safeguarding Team

Cyber-bullying and social media

The way in which some students communicate with each other through social media platforms, particularly SnapChat, is causing problems at school. During this half term, the safeguarding team have seen some of these messages and we have been shocked by the language being used in the messages exchanged. Although this is taking place outside school, problems are occurring inside school that are causing upset to students and making them to feel unsafe amongst their peers.

We would like to request that all parents/carers talk to their child/children about how to behave respectfully towards their peers online. We would also like to suggest that all parents/carers, if this is not already in place, check some of their child's/children's messages to ascertain how appropriate communication is between their peers.

Features and Updates

This edition of the Safeguarding Bulletin features: information about **vaping**, **indecent images/sexting** and the law and **knife crime**.

Knife crime

We would like to ask that all parents/carers talk to their child/children, in an age-appropriate way, about the dangers of knife crime. The following resources will support these conversations:

[Resource 1](#) Knife crime laws

Vaping: High lead and nickel found in illegal vapes

Further to the recent news headlines about the contents of vapes seized in a secondary school in Kidderminster, we urge all parents/carers to remain vigilant for these types of items. Disposable vapes are often branded and marketed in ways that make them very appealing to teenagers which is contributing to what has been described as a new pandemic. Please note it is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to buy a vape in the UK. Please click [here](#) to read more about how the government plans to crackdown on this issue.



Indecent images/sexting and the law

The safeguarding team often deals with concerns raised by staff, students and parents/carers about indecent images/sexting. Despite educational inputs by the College, some students continue to take risks related to indecent images/sexting. From our conversations with parents/carers, there is some uncertainty regarding indecent images/sexting and the law therefore we would like to offer the following clarity:

It is an offence to *make, distribute, possess or show* any indecent images of anyone aged under 18, even if the content was created with the consent of that young person. Please note that indecent imagery does not always mean nudity, it can also be semi-nude sexual posing (e.g. displaying genitals and/or breasts or overtly sexual images of young people in their underwear) and/or touching themselves in a sexual way. Young people refer to indecent images/sexting as: *dic pics*; *pics* and *nudes*.

Please click [here](#) for a useful resource to support young people and their families with this topic.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Please remember that anyone can make a referral to social care with a safeguarding concern. Ideally, this should be done via the county that the referee lives in. If this is unknown, the county of the referrer should be used.

For **Cambridgeshire**, [click here](#)

For **Essex**, [click here](#)

For **Suffolk**, [click here](#)

In an emergency, please dial 999 or to speak to the localised police, dial 101.

New Student Welfare Officer

We would like to introduce Anna Sheasby, Student Welfare Officer to parents/carers. Mrs Sheasby starts at the College during enrichment week and will join in with some Y7 and Y8 activities and trips.