

Safeguarding Bulletin 2022-2023

SUMMER TERM EDITION 6

Welcome and introduction

As the academic year draws to a close, I would like to thank all parents/carers for working so closely with the College to ensure that our community is safe. It has been reassuring to see parents/carers using our safeguarding email address: thinkpink@lintonvc.org and also phoning the College to speak to one of the safeguarding team. All communication from parents/carers is taken seriously and we follow up with students in a sensitive way. From September, I will no longer be the College's Designated Safeguarding Lead as I will be leading on curriculum and teaching and learning related priorities. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that Louise Keen will be the DSL from September. During the course of the new school year, I will work very closely with Mrs Keen and will remain a member of the College safeguarding team. I wish her every success in her new role and am sure that she will continue to develop the College's approach to safeguarding.

E-safety

Over the summer break, we expect students will spend more time online both browsing and communicating with their peers. Unfortunately, from our experience at school, we know that much damage can be done to students' self esteem through online communication platforms and more specifically, Snapchat. The most common things we deal with are: exclusion from group chats and therefore invitations to join peers socially; inappropriate comments which can include offensive, prejudicial language (for example: homophobic; racist and/or sexist). We appreciate that it can often be difficult as a parent/carer to regularly check social media exchanges (particularly Snapchat) therefore we recommend talking to children about the 4Cs of e-safety: conduct; contact; content and commerce. Further guidance can be found [here](#).

Fire, river and road safety

During assemblies this week we have advised students to be safe over the summer break however we also realise that young people, particularly under significant peer pressure, can engage in risk taking behaviours. We know that most parents and carers regularly talk to their children about mitigation of risk. From our experiences at school, we often see young people, plugged into their devices listening to music, unaware of what is going on around them in terms of bikes, buses and other vehicles more generally. Furthermore, we are aware of how exciting a day out alongside the river is for young people but also the side effects of swimming in (for example, the river Cam) water with sewage pollution and potentially debris on the riverbed.

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.

Please also note that over the holiday period the thinkpink@lintonvc.org email address will not be supervised.

Features and Updates

This edition of the Safeguarding Bulletin features: information about **e-safety, fire safety, river safety and road safety**.

Indecent images/sexting and the law

This term, we have experienced some incidents of sexting amongst our younger students (for example in Year 7 and Year 8). From our conversations with students, there is some uncertainty regarding indecent images/sexting and the law therefore we would like to further re-iterate (from our Summer 1, Safeguarding Bulletin that: 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. Please be reassured that the police seldomly wish to criminalise young people about this subject matter, it is more common that an educational approach is adopted to inform future decision making.

Key signposting to additional services

[CEOPs](#) (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre)

[Childline](#)

[Kooth](#) (Online mental health community)

[Mind](#) (Mental health information and support)

[Young Mind](#) (as above but for young people, parents and carers)