

Safeguarding Bulletin 2024-2025

AUTUMN TERM EDITION 1

Welcome and introduction to new parents/carers

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself as the Director of Safeguarding and Designated Safeguarding Lead for the College. I would also like to offer a warm welcome to the new academic year.

At Linton Village College we remain thoroughly committed to safeguarding and consider it to be the golden thread that runs through the College. A half-termly bulletin is issued to keep parents and carers informed about safeguarding and mental health and hope to use this a method of keeping you up to date with common trends that we are experiencing in the community. We also like to let you know what has taken place in the first half-term in terms of helping young people to keep themselves and others around them safe. We value contributions and ideas from parents and carers and this can be communicated via our dedicated email. Thank you in advance for your support in keeping our young people safe and well.

Address – thinkpink@lintonvc.org

Mrs Louise Keen – Director of Safeguarding, Designated Safeguarding Lead

World Mental Health Day 10/10

We celebrated World Mental Health in order to raise awareness of mental health and to give some top tips for managing life's ups and downs. We did this through year group assemblies and debate and discussion in tutor time. We also reminded students about the ways that support for mental health can be accessed – drop-in at the Well-being Hub, self-referral via the College website and/or the use of the Pink Peer Postcards. We intend to deliver forums again this year to give parents the skills and information that is needed to support young people effectively.

Features and Updates

This edition of the Safeguarding Bulletin features: **mental health provision and education at the College, national safeguarding updates and ongoing use of filtering and monitoring.**

Special drop-ins for Y11 students

Throughout the mock exam period, Mrs Hill (Well-being Mentor) will offer drop-ins in the Well-being Hub. This will be available every lunchtime for Y11 students. We hope that this will allow students to talk about exam-induced stress and worries as well as to talk through an exam that doesn't go as expected.

Mental Health provision at LVC

We are very fortunate to have Mrs Hill, whose role and responsibility is focus on mental health and wellbeing. She is trained in mental health first aid and can offer support with issues such as anxiety, friendships, low mood, self-esteem, self-harm and stress.



Students can drop in to see Mrs Hill at breaktime and lunchtime and can be referred to this provision by staff, themselves or their parents or carers. Parents/carers are always contacted as part of this 'referral' process and work with our mental health team to support their children. Mrs Hill also offers education to students around the use of prejudicial language, bullying and relationship issues.

For more complex mental health issues we are pleased to be able to offer a counselling service via Centre 33. A trained counsellor is in the College on Fridays and this provision offers assessment of need, followed by a six week course of intervention – this period can be extended should that be appropriate.

Tier 1 – Tutor intervention and could include friendship issues, home learning, unkindness between peers

Tier 2 – Wellbeing mentor and could include self-harm, self-esteem, anxiety, relationship issues

Tier 3 - Mental Health Practitioner – this includes more complex mental health needs with intervention from specialist services such as Centre 33, CAMH and YoUnited

Key Updates from

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024

Key updates this year focus on attendance and vigilance around signs of extremism and possible radicalisation.

KCSIE 2024 emphasises that unexplained and/or persistent absences from education can put children at risk of harm.

Children who are absent from education are listed on a school's roll but have poor attendance (either for prolonged periods and/or on repeat occasions) – this can serve as a warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues.

Children missing education (CME) are pupils of compulsory school age who have a left a school's roll or who have never enrolled and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school. These children are at greater risk of harm.

Elective home education (EHE) is where parents remove a pupil from a school's roll and educate them at home. Some pupils can be at greater risk of harm because they are less visible to adults and services.

- **Extremism** is the vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values.
- **Radicalisation** is the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence.
- **Terrorism** is the use or threat of serious violence designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.
- **The Prevent Duty** exists to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

SENSO – FILTERING AND MONITORING

We continue to remain vigilant around the use of IT at the College. Senso allows The Safeguarding Team to monitor the use of language that could indicate a safeguarding concern while Smoothwall filters and blocks access to potentially harmful material