

Safeguarding Bulletin 2024-2025

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 care 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

Features and Updates

This edition of the Safeguarding Bulletin features: information about **online safety, knife crime, indecent images/sexting and mental health screening in school.**

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

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*.

Cyber-bullying and social media

The way in which some students communicate with each other through social media platforms, particularly SnapChat, can cause problems at school. The safeguarding team has been alerted to some of these messages and is shocked by some of the language being used in the messages exchanged. Although this is taking place outside school, problems can spill into school and can cause upset to students, making them 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.

As part of Anglian Learning's '**Belonging By Design**' campaign, we rolled out the first wave of mental health screening so that we can better understand how young people are feeling now, in terms of mental health.

The process was explained to students via assemblies and to parents via a letter home. Anonymised data will be analysed to give Anglian Learning and your Mental Health Team an idea of the overall levels of mental wellbeing within the school and to inform future provision.

Belonging by Design

Anglian Learning's schools are prioritising our [Belonging by Design](#) strategy as research shows that when pupils feel they **belong to their school**, they are more likely to have improved outcomes in many aspects of their lives.

Pupils with a strong sense of belonging to school show an increase in academic engagement and achievement, improved self esteem and better mental health as well as increased attendance rates.

The five strands of Belonging by Design are:

- **Attendance**
- **Communities**
- **Inclusion**
- **Mental Health**
- **Relationships**

Today, we are focusing on this strand.



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 where the referee lives. 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.

