



# Safeguarding at Sandwell Academy

Latest advice for parents and carers

Issue 2 – February 2024

The Safeguarding Team are continuing to work hard to support all students at Sandwell Academy. We have been working hard on raising awareness of positive mental health this term. Here are some updates below.

## The Safeguarding Team

Who are we?



Miss Pincher : Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Adams : Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Miss Breen : Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Povey: Senior Deputy Head Responsible for Behaviour, Safeguarding & Inclusion Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

If you have any concerns for a child or wish to gain some advice from the team, please contact: [Safeguarding@sandwellacademy.com](mailto:Safeguarding@sandwellacademy.com)

## Online Safety

### Safer Internet Day 6 February

Skips Safety Net provide parents and carers with information to tackle keeping their children safe online. Resources can be used to recommend ways on how to protect your children and how to start difficult conversations around safety and security of devices.

**Parent guides can be found for the following:**

- Social media
- Sharing pictures
  - Gaming
- Online grooming
  - Fake News
- Online influencers

Please find the Skips website for more useful documents and resources.

[Skips Safety Net \(skipseducational.org\)](https://skipseducational.org)

### Children's Mental Health Week 5 -11 February

This year the theme is 'Your Voice Matters'. As a school we were able to ensure that students took part in a number of PT activities to express themselves. It is important for children to know that they are not alone.

## Sandwell Safeguarding Champions have been launched at Sandwell Academy!

5 students across Year 7 and 8 have been selected to work alongside the Safeguarding Team in identifying students who may need support. Students are able to attend training and regular meetings with the team and voice any concerns that may arise across the school.

### Place2 Be Parenting Sessions

Place2Be, our in-school mental health support service, has a variety of resources to help you support your child's wellbeing. The Parenting Smart website offers free practical advice on a range of topics including bullying, the transition to secondary/high school, meltdowns, and sleep difficulties.

Visit [Place2Be: Parenting Smart: Articles](#) to read more. Place2Be's Parenting Smart - Online Course is a free, 4-week course designed to support parents and carers of primary-age children in their parenting journey. Visit [place2be.org.uk/family](http://place2be.org.uk/family) to learn more about these free resources from Place2Be.

If you have any questions or would like more advice, please contact Danielle Hynes on [dhynes@sandwellacademy.com](mailto:dhynes@sandwellacademy.com)

### External Groups

**Brook** – Brook is a sexual health and wellbeing service that works in schools providing high quality relationships and sex education. A handful of students have started sessions with Brook this month and engagement has been fantastic! Referrals are made to this service through school and parents if support is required.

**School Health Drop in Dates:** Sandwell school health nurses come in to the Academy every month. Students are informed they can speak to the nurses in confidence around any issues they feel are appropriate. Advice and guidance will be given to students regarding their health. Issues previously raised are anxiety, self confidence and eating worries as a teen. The next drop in session will take place on 6 March 2024.

**Safer Together** – Girls across Years 8,9 and 10 have been selected to take part in Safer Together Sessions. This is working alongside West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership, educating students on safer relationships, gender equality and consent.

### Operation encompass

Safeguarding our students is at the forefront of our work at Sandwell Academy. We wanted to inform parents that our school is part of Operation Encompass, which is run jointly with West Midlands Police and Sandwell Children's Safeguarding partnership.

This information is to make you aware that when a child or young person has been exposed to, or involved in any domestic incident, a report will be received by the Academy stating that an incident has taken place, prior to the start of the next school day.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of staff, known as a key adult, is trained to liaise with the local authority and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence. We will ensure that the Academy is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in, or exposed to a domestic abuse incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our students and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all of those involved.

## SSS Learning for Parents

Free videos and information packs are available for parents to download, please take a look at their website for further information on:

- Tackling Sleep Problems in Children and Teens
- Supporting Your Child Through School Anxiety
- Improving School Attendance
- Child Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Parental Mental Health & Wellbeing

[Parental Resources | SSS Learning](#)



## GREENE KING PUBS

### **KIDS EAT FREE\*!**

Delight your little ones with a complimentary meal this half term when you purchase an adult meal. Our Kids Eat Free promotion is your passport to family-friendly dining, available every weekday from Monday to Friday. Don't miss out on this fantastic offer, valid for a two-week span from Monday 12th of February to Friday 23rd of February 2024. Join us for a memorable dining experience that caters to all!

## **This half term students have been looking at the following topics in PSHE/Citizenship Sessions:**

- Careers
- The political system
- Extremism/radicalisation
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Online Safety (Assembly)

## **From March topics discussed in PSHE will include:**

- Careers
- The political System
- Extremism/radicalisation
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Online Safety (Assembly)
- Toxic Masculinity
- Human Rights and International Law
- Crime and Justice System
- Gender Equality
- Revision Techniques
- Racial Equality