



Year 7 Parent Information Sheet

The Safeguarding Team

At Sandwell Academy our Safeguarding Team consists of 4 members of staff: our Designated Safeguarding Lead, two deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads and a Family Support Worker. If you wish to raise a concern or have a query please use the email below. safeguarding@sandwellacademy.com

If you wish to find more information on this please visit our website.

All Heads of Year are Level 3 Safeguarding trained and will also be able to help with any query. Each student is assigned a personal tutor and Pastoral Year lead; their contact details can be found on the school website.

At the Academy we offer a range of support for students through their Personal Tutor, school counselling, Mentors and the Inclusion Team. We also work with numerous agencies such as CAMHS, Sandwell Young Carers, Decca and Brooke. We have language support available if English is not your first language, and a Hearing impaired member of staff who offers sign language. Please contact your child's Personal Tutor or Head of Year for further information.

Operation encompass

Our school is signed up to Operation Encompass, the Sandwell Joint Agency Protocol for Domestic Abuse – notifications to Schools. This protocol sets out Sandwell's plans for a multi-agency operation to notify schools when a pupil has experienced domestic violence in their household, which will allow the school to provide appropriate early intervention and support in a timely manner.

Our DSL will receive notifications and ensure the children receive the right help at the right time. Additional support is available from Operation Encompass and provides an advice and helpline service for all staff members from educational settings who may be concerned about children who have experienced domestic abuse.



[Home : Operation Encompass](#)

Early Help Assessment

The Early Help Assessment (previously known as CAF) is an assessment of the child / young person within the context of the family and community. It is not a comprehensive, core or specialist assessment and provides the opportunity for practitioners and the family to gain a better initial understanding of the child / young person's needs.

An Early Help Assessment:

- Helps identify the child or young person's needs.
- Provides structure for recording information.
- Can support referrals to other services.
- Provides a common form of assessment which will be familiar across children and young people's services.

Please speak to a member of staff if you wish to be supported in an assessment. The form can be found on the link below, however staff provide support to complete this.

[Early Help Assessment \(EHA\) | Early Help | Sandwell Council](#)

Advocates

We have a number of Advocate roles within the school. Please email advocates@sandwellacademy.com if you would like any further advice and guidance, further information on the school website.

Sandwell Young Carers

If your child is providing care to you or assisting you in caring for family member, and you would like more information or support, please click the link below

[Home \(sandwellyc.com\)](http://Home.sandwellyc.com)

Young Carers lead in School is Hayley Coxley

Social Media

As students use social media more now than ever, it is vital that parents are speaking to their children regarding online safety and the risks to social media use.

Parents are encouraged to report all forms of threats, bullying and abuse shared across social media to the police. Where the safeguarding team can support, please make sure you are regular checking what your children post online. All students have an assembly with our school police liaison officer to raise awareness around social media.

If you require advice on how to approach your child around these topics please use the website link.

[Teaching Your Child about Internet & Online Safety | NSPCC](#)

Sandwell Family Hub

What is a Family Hub?

Children's Centres are growing to include more support and services and will become Sandwell Family Hubs.

Their mission is to help all families in Sandwell thrive!

Family Hubs will offer the right help, in the right place, at the right time by offering services and support for all families with children aged 0 – 19 (or 25 with SEND) and extra support is available for families during pregnancy and in your baby's first years.

To see how Family Hubs can support you and your family, head over to our Sandwell Family Hubs website where they offer support and guidance. You can also use their session finder to see what support is available.

www.sandwellfamilyhubs.com

Student Well-Being

There are a range of services that offer support to young people. Below are links to different organisations and how they can support.

Mermaids – Mermaids supports transgender, non-binary and gender-diverse children and young people until their 20th birthday, as well as their families and professionals involved in care. Transgender, non-binary and gender-diverse children and teens need support and understanding, as well as the freedom to explore their gender identity. Whatever the outcome, Mermaids is committed to helping families navigate the challenges they may face. [Homepage - Mermaids \(mermaidsuk.org.uk\)](http://Homepage-Mermaids.mermaidsuk.org.uk)

Kaleidoscope Plus Group – Kaleidoscope offer a range of services for young people. A free text service is available for children to message if they need to speak to someone to share how they feel. **TeamKPG 85258**. Kaleidoscope also offer one to one sessions around self-harm, mental health, bereavement. Please click the link for more information- [Services - \(kaleidoscopeplus.org.uk\)](http://Services-kaleidoscopeplus.org.uk)

NSPCC- Childline is free to contact on 08001111. Childline counsellors are here to take calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from children and young people under 19. [Childline | NSPCC](#)