

Safeguarding at Sandwell Academy

Latest advice for parents and carers

Issue 1 - March 2022

Welcome to our first edition of the Newsletter from the Sandwell Safeguarding Team. We aim to bring you all the latest, relevant help and advice on issues we feel will be of importance to you.

Who to contact if you have a concern about a young person

If you are worried about a young person's safety, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Leads.

The following members of staff are Designated Safeguarding Leads for Sandwell Academy:

[Mrs Jones \(DSL\)](#)

[Mrs Donovan \(DDSL\)](#)

They can be contacted via email or by telephone on 0121 5251700

If you have a safeguarding concern when the school is closed contact Sandwell Safeguarding Team on 0121 569 3100.

In an emergency please call 999.

For a copy of our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, please visit the '[Useful Documents & Policies](#)' page on our website.

Our new Safeguarding Governor is [Mim Hall](#). Her responsibilities include:

- Ensuring the academy is following safe recruitment procedures and reviewing all activity and policy relating to the well-being of students.
- Seeking improvement to ensure the academy follows best practice in creating a safe environment for all.

Sexual Harassment in Schools

Last year, OFSTED completed an investigation into sexual harassment in schools and colleges. The review revealed how prevalent sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are for children and young people. The report said that for some young people, incidents are so commonplace that they see no point in reporting them.

What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment in general is any unwanted sexual attention that can cause physical, emotional, mental, psychological or economic harm to the victim. It can happen both online or offline.

What do we do at Sandwell Academy?

It is important that we teach all young people about acceptable interactions, and then what they must do if they receive any unwanted attention.

We encourage young people to be open about their experiences so that they know it is always safe to disclose concerns to a trusted adult. We aim to create an environment that teaches all students how to behave respectfully towards each other, and how to respect personal and physical boundaries.

In the Autumn Term, our Citizenship programme covered:

- Sexting
- Sexual Harassment
- Consent

What can you do at home?

Parents and carers have an important role to play in reducing levels of sexual harassment.

For more advice on how to respond and support your children: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/sexual-abuse-schools-how-should-parents-respond>

Vaping

E-cigarettes or vape pens – what are they?

- They are electronic devices that heat a liquid and produce an Aerosol or mix of small particles in the air.
- They come in many shapes and sizes - some e-cigarettes look like regular cigarettes or cigars. They also look like USB flash drives, pens, and other everyday items.

How do they work?

They produce an aerosol by heating a liquid that usually contains nicotine, flavourings and other chemicals that help to make the aerosol. This liquid is sometimes called 'e-juice', 'e- liquid', 'vape juice,' or 'vape liquid.' As well as the flavoured liquids, e-cigarette devices can be used to deliver marijuana and other drugs. Although there is still not a huge amount of information on the long term effects of e-cigarettes, they are known to have some risks, and **they are considered unsafe for young people under 20. It is illegal to purchase e-cigarettes/e-liquids under the age of 18.**

For more information and advice: <https://www.brook.org.uk/your-life/smoking-and-vaping/>

Social Media

Young people use many different social media apps and sites.

There are lots of benefits to social networking but there are also risks.

These can include: sending or receiving inappropriate content and images, sharing their location or talking to people they don't know.

For more information and advice:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>

Emotional wellbeing

Emotional wellbeing is the ability to produce positive emotions, thoughts, and feelings, and adapt when confronted with stressful situations. Students who are able to manage their wellbeing are more likely to experience success at school, both academically and socially.

Sandwell Academy supports student wellbeing through the PT, Pastoral and Heads of Year, Inclusion and Safeguarding Team, Mentors and counselling.

For more information and advice:

<https://www.kooth.com/>
<https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care/>

Steps you can take to keep your child safer online

- **Have an ongoing conversation:** Continue to talk about the apps, games and sites they like to use, and what they like and don't like and any concerns about being online. Discuss with them when to unfollow, block or report.
- **Make sure they know where to go for support:** Remind your child they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset. Remind them that they won't be in trouble at that you are there to help.
- **Make sure they know about NCA CEOP:** Young people can report a concern about grooming or sexual abuse to NCA CEOP at <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> and get support from a specialist Child Protection Advisor.