

Parent Carer/ Safeguarding Newsletter



October 23

Welcome to the first edition of our Safeguarding Newsletter. Keeping children safe at Ecclesfield School is our number one priority and we know that the most effective way for us to support our young people is to work in partnership with their parents/carers.

With context and risks changing all of the time we thought parents may find that information and guidance on key topics and how to access support may be beneficial, so we look forward to regularly sharing updates with you.

At Ecclesfield School we have a highly qualified and experienced team who are available to support you with any concerns or worries you may have. Please don't hesitate in contacting the safeguarding team directly or by requesting a contact at <https://ecclesfield-school.com/contact>.

You will find our Safeguarding contacts at the end of this newsletter.



Online Safety

As well as keeping children safe in the “real world,” the online world creates another layer of risks that our young people may be exposed to and keeping on top of changes and developments can feel daunting at times. To support parents and carers to keep up to date with online safety and to offer handy hints and tips we have signed up to the National Online Safety platform, if you follow the link below you will be able to get help and information on all aspects of online safety.

<https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/ecclesfield-school>

Vaping

Nationally there has been an increase in the amount of young people who are vaping. To address this and to ensure that our students have the most up to date information we have delivered assemblies and sessions during PSHCE on the topic to try to dispel the many myths surrounding vaping.

One of the biggest concerns around vaping is that young people often do not know what substance is in the device they are vaping from and this may include illegal substances including THC which can be incredibly dangerous to young people.



The links below are helpful in supporting parents/carers to have conversations with stop. We really value parental support in maintaining our school expectation of no vapes or smoking materials being brought onto school site. <https://bit.ly/3LRzc2U>

Dark Nights



As we approach the “Dark Nights” period specifically Halloween and Bonfire Night we are made aware of increasing concerns from the emergency services around the risky behaviour of some young people.

This may include behaving in an unsafe way or being in possession of fireworks, remember the legal age to purchase or to be handling fireworks is 18. We will be speaking to Ecclesfield students about the importance of attending organised firework events and maintaining appropriate distance from bonfires and firework displays.

Halloween can be a fun event for young people to dress up with their friends and have fun together however, it is also a time that can be quite frightening for some of the older or more vulnerable members of our community. We will be speaking to Ecclesfield students about the importance of being respectful if they are “trick or treating” and not causing upset by knocking on doors where they don’t know who lives there or where they aren’t certain they will be welcome. We will also be speaking to young people about the dangers that can be associated with visiting unknown houses and the importance of not going into an unknown person’s property.

Exploitation

Teenagers may often change their friendship groups, interests, hobbies and where they are hanging out quite regularly. As parents and carers, it can feel like a never-ending task keeping up with who they are hanging around with and what they are doing.

With child criminal and sexual exploitation on the rise it is more important than ever to be speaking to your children, ensuring you know who they are talking to both in person and online and where they are socialising in the community.

Northamptonshire Police and Child Safeguarding Hub have put together the following short film aimed to help parents to spot the signs that their child may be being exploited.

<https://www.northants.police.uk/news/northants/news/news/2023/september/film-launched-to-tackle-child-exploitation/>

If you have any concerns at all around exploitation or are worried about who your child is hanging around with or what they are doing in the community, please speak to a member of the safeguarding team who will be able to offer support and advice to you and your child and to also signpost/ refer your child to the appropriate youth support services if necessary.



SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION

Designated Safeguarding Lead



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Other members of school staff who are advanced safeguarding trained are;

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