

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Welcome to the March edition of the safeguarding newsletter. Although it is a short half-term, we still have a packed schedule to ensure our students remain safe, supported and aware.

We are particularly excited to be holding our first ever Wellbeing Evening, which is an event for parents and carers to come and learn about the various mental health support services available for our students. Details are included in this newsletter, and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Kind regards,

Ms Jones and the Keep Kids Safe team.

KEY NUMBERS

Anyone can contact the services below directly, regardless of whether you are a child, parent, carer or a member of staff. If you have a safeguarding concern, please ensure you pass it on: safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

<p>01925 443322 (Option one, followed by option one)</p> <p>Warrington Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)</p> <p>For urgent safeguarding concerns about a child</p>	<p>01925 443322 (Option two)</p> <p>Out of Office Emergency Duty Team</p> <p>For urgent safeguarding concerns about a child outside of office hours</p>	<p>0808 800 5000</p> <p>NSPCC</p> <p>For adults who are worried about a child</p>
<p>0800 1111</p> <p>Childline</p> <p>For children who are worried about their own safety or need some advice</p>	<p>101</p> <p>Police Non-Emergency</p> <p>For reporting any crimes or concerns</p>	<p>999</p> <p>Emergency Services</p> <p>For anyone in immediate danger (including if you are worried about the immediate risk to a child)</p>

Wellbeing Evening



**WELLBEING
EVENING**

Information for
Parents and Carers

An evening to
learn about the
support available
for our students'
wellbeing and
mental health.

13TH MARCH 4-5PM
IN THE PHOENIX

PADGATE
ACADEMY

PRESENTATIONS FROM THE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM AND KOOH

The poster features a hand holding a glowing green smiley face, with other smiley faces in the background. A small Padgate Academy logo is in the top right corner of the poster.

We are very excited to be hosting a Wellbeing Evening event for parents and carers to come and learn about all of the fantastic mental health support on offer for our students.

The Mental Health Support Team and Kooth will both deliver presentations, providing information regarding the signs and symptoms of mental health difficulties in children, as well as details of the support their service provides and how to access it. Our fantastic mental health ambassadors will also be in attendance.

The first presentation will begin at 4pm, so please arrive early via the Phoenix entrance to allow the event to start on time. Children are welcome to attend if they wish.

Eating Disorders Awareness Week

Eating Disorders Awareness Week takes place on 27th February – 5th March and the focus this year is males with eating disorders. Around 1 in 4 people with eating disorders identify as male, however often the symptoms can be dismissed by assumptions such as being a 'picky eater'. For more information, please go to <https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk/>

If you suspect your child may be suffering with an eating disorder, please contact their GP.



‘Squad Goals’ – Mental Health Performance

Years 8 and 9 will be lucky enough to watch a performance by Altru Drama called ‘Squad Goals’, which explores mental health issues from the perspective of young characters and their differing experiences of depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation and self-harm. The performance aims to increase awareness of what mental health is, develop understanding of the ways that mental ill health can affect us, explore resilience, and identify a range of strategies to cope when life gets tough.

Thank you to Mrs Edwards for arranging this!

Contextual Safeguarding

What is Contextual Safeguarding?

Contextual safeguarding refers to risks posed to children outside of the family home in the wider community. This presents particular challenges for parents, carers and school because the influences drawing the children to unsafe situations, are often unknown. Another complicating factor is that sometimes the people grooming children are not always adults; they can be children themselves who are also being exploited.

Grooming to Exploit

- The purpose of grooming in the context of exploitation is to create a “willing victim”.
- The child rarely sees themselves as abused or as a “victim”. They believe their relationship with their abuser is born out of ‘trust’, ‘respect’ or ‘love’.
- They believe they are making a choice. This makes it more difficult for parents/carers to convince the child that they are at risk, because they don’t see their groomer as a groomer.

Forms of Exploitation

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
- County Lines
- Online Child Exploitation
- Modern Day Slavery
- Child Trafficking
- Child-on Child Exploitation

Signs of Exploitation

- Unexplained gifts, such as vapes, clothes/shoes, phones, jewellery etc.
- Change in mood: becoming more secretive/anxious, especially with their phone
- Change in communication: using ‘street language’ or sounding scripted, talking about ideologies
- Change in behaviour: becoming increasingly hostile/angry; receiving lots of phone calls
- Change in peer group: either with older children or adults
- Change in appearance: changing the way they dress, looking tired/withdrawn, wearing more makeup
- Going missing from home
- Injuries to the body such as bruises, or self-harm

Support Available

If you are worried about your child, you can contact MASH on 01925 443322 who can screen your concern and provide appropriate support. Please also let school know, and we can work together – for example, by completing a contextual safeguarding screening tool.