

In Touch



Keeping parents informed

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Overview from Senior Leader

Safeguarding is a vital part of school life and something we take incredibly seriously. We work with a large number of external agencies to keep our students safe, but it's important that parents know who we are, what we do and how to seek help if needed. Hopefully this edition of In Touch will help with that! Mrs Ridley, College Leader/ Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Why is this edition important?

Some parents are not aware that safeguarding is what we do to prevent harm; this can be to do with issues of neglect, self-harm, domestic violence, mental health, attendance, racism, homophobia, drug-related issues and lots of other things. Child Protection is what we do when harm has happened to stop things from getting worse and usually involves working with other professionals to support the student.

What is the process at TGAK?

All staff are trained in safeguarding and share the responsibility for it. If a teacher becomes aware of an issue with a child, they will log this onto our online system. A DSL/ DDSL will look at it and then decide which steps need to be taken. These next steps could include: talking to the student, speaking to parents, calling Children's Services, referring for mental health support, referring to various charities or calling the police. Parents will always be informed, provided it doesn't put the child at greater risk. For most of our next steps we will try to get parental consent as it is always our goal to work with parents.

Who are the Safeguarding Team?

All staff share responsibility for safeguarding. However, the team which deals with the most serious issues involves: Mrs Ridley (DSL), Mrs Dunleavy and Mrs Richardson (Deputy DSLs), Miss Grady (Attendance and Welfare Officer), Miss Hines (Lead First Aider) and the School Counsellors.

Who do I go to first for support?

As always in school, your first contact in most cases should be your child's tutor. If they feel that it's a more serious incident, they will pass it onto the Safeguarding Team.

If you think there's a really serious incident which cannot wait, or you're uncomfortable sharing details with your child's tutor, you can phone the main school number and ask to be put through to the Safeguarding Team. Information about safeguarding is only shared on a need-to-know basis.

If you are already working with a social worker, family support worker, Young Carers or charity such as Women's Aid and they need a contact in school, please ask them to contact the Safeguarding Team. We will always support where possible!

Where can I find more information?

The school website has a safeguarding page which has lots of support, including regular news items for parents about online safety, information about mental health and links to organisations or charities for specific issues ranging from eating disorders or bereavement support to gambling addiction!

<https://www.kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk/safeguarding/>

