



How we keep your child safe in school

There are many ways in which we keep your child safe in school, many of which you may not be aware of...

Some of these are **physical**, such as:

- Fences around school so that we can control who we let into our school building
- Digitally controlled entry and exit doors
- CCTV covering the perimeter of school as well as entrances and exits
- Firewalls and filters protecting content on the school's internet
- Monitoring software to raise flags to safeguarding staff about what students type, search for and look at
- Posters around school to reinforce tolerance of race, religion, sexuality, gender
- Posters around school with information about charities and organisations that young people can access for support
- Safeguarding notices in toilets
- Displays about what child on child abuse is, how to recognise it and report it
- Posters about zero tolerance of bullying

Some of these are **processes** and **procedures**:

- All staff wear a lanyard indicating their role and level of DBS clearance
- Visitors are checked to ensure they can work with children
- There are 3 Designated Safeguarding Leads in school who staff, children and parents can report concerns to directly. They are:
 - Mrs Wilson
 - Mr Haycocks
 - Mr Holland
- Checking all staff are safe to and can work with children
- Making sure that staff act appropriately around children when teaching them
- Making sure that Balshaw's is a safe place to learn and that we have strong Discipline Policy to make sure this happens
- Making sure that students are kind to each other and act appropriately in school
- Having staff on duty at breaks, lunch, before and after school and on corridors in between lessons

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS

Who to speak to if you are concerned about a child at Balshaw's High School.

		
Mrs Angela Wilson Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Mr Steve Haycocks Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Mr Anthony Holland Backup Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

SEE IT → HEAR IT → REPORT IT

- Specific year group toilets, insisting on one person per cubicle and responding to student concerns about safety by removing outer doors
- The “No Touching” rule
- Keeping student year groups separate
- The NSPCC Pants rule – Don’t take or send pictures of anything covered by their underwear
- Monthly Student Safeguarding updates
- House assemblies on safeguarding issues and whole school assemblies on Child on Child abuse
- Having an Online Safety Policy that everyone has to adhere to, including staff
- ICT Acceptable Use Policy that children sign and parents agree to as part of the Home School Agreement
- Advice and guidance about what is and is not appropriate to post online
- Key safeguarding messages in assemblies on Sexting, Grooming and knowing who you are talking to online
- Having a Pastoral Hub that all students can access if they are worried about anything or don’t feel safe
- Having a Form Tutor and Head of House that students can confide in about any topic
- Following up all absences from school
- Insisting that all students behave appropriately and do not do or say anything inappropriate that makes others feel threatened or unsafe
- Reminding children that some types of unsafe behaviour/language is **NOT 'banter' 'part of growing up', 'just boys being boys' or 'having a laugh'**
- PSHE lessons and a Personal Development Curriculum that is taught in school to all children with key safeguarding themes

Who can children tell in school if they feel unsafe?

- Their Form Tutor
- Their Head of House
- Any member of staff in school that they feel safe telling
- Any staff member in the Pastoral Hub
- The Designated Safeguarding Staff – Mrs Wilson, Mr Haycocks and Mr Holland



We would however, encourage children in the first instance to tell you as their parents, or tell a trusted family member or other trusted adult as you are the best person to help to support your child and keep them safe.

You can also ring:

- The Police – ring 101
- Children’s Social Care – ring 0300 123 6701
- Childline ring 0808 800 5000

What happens on a weekend and in the evenings

I also wanted to clarify where school’s responsibility for dealing with issues out of school lies. Unfortunately, as much as we would like to help solve all issues relating to children’s behaviour and avoiding trouble there is a limit as to what school staff can and cannot deal with.

This term I have had increasing numbers of emails asking school staff to investigate and or deal with incidents which happen on a weekend or in the holidays relating to some of your children or our pupils. If an incident happens during these times, the responsibility for dealing with them lies with you as parents. Appropriate responses would be to monitor your child’s social media use (if they are old enough to be allowed to access social media platforms – usually 13).

If you feel the incident warrants a tougher action we would encourage you to contact the Police as school staff have no powers to deal with such issues. They may affect your child's sense of wellbeing and safety, but they are factors that are out of the control of school when they are in your care.

I hope this letter outlines our commitment to keeping your child safe and encouraging them to report anything at all they feel unsafe about as well as doing all they can to keep themselves safe. We continue to have your child's best interest at heart and the safeguarding of all our children is paramount.

Your sincerely

Mr S Haycocks

Headteacher