

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Our Promise at Madeley School

Madeley School recognises its legal duty under Education Act 2002 (section 157 in relation to independent schools and academies) and the 1989 Children Act and takes seriously its responsibilities to protect and safeguard the interests of all pupils.

The school recognises that effective child protection work requires sound procedures, good inter-agency co-operation and a workforce that is competent and confident in responding to child protection situations. Safeguarding incidents can happen anywhere and staff should be alert to any concerns being raised. All staff may raise safeguarding concerns directly with Children's Social Care Services (see making referrals section of this policy).

Welcome to our final newsletter of the academic year. In this edition we would like to focus on general safeguarding over the summer holiday, and as always, remind you of our safeguarding team here at Madeley School.

Our safeguarding team



If you have a concern about any student of Madeley High please phone the school reception and ask for:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer: Mrs S Halstead (sara.halstead@madeley.set.org)
- Deputy Safeguarding Leads: emma.boustead@madeley.set.org / lee.royall@madeley.set.org
- You can also speak to any of our extended safeguarding team:

Head of Year 7: Mrs B Stokoe: brittany.stokoe@madeley.set.org

Head of Year 8: Mrs S Walker: stephanie.walker@madeley.set.org

Head of Year 9: Miss H Bentley: hollie.bentley@madeley.set.org

Head of Year 10: Mrs J Bates: jacqueline.bates@madeley.set.org

Please also take a look at our safeguarding pages on the school website.

Summer Safety: What Changes During the Holidays?

- ⇒ More unsupervised time
- ⇒ Changes to routine
- ⇒ Increased independence

Water Safety

We have sent a number of items home since May half term regarding this topic however, Staffordshire Police still contact us regarding some of our young students and open water swimming. Please relay these top tips to your child:

1. Never swim alone
2. Open water can be dangerously cold and there is a risk of cold water shock
3. Choose supervised swimming areas
4. Avoid alcohol and drugs around water / peer pressure
5. Check the weather, be aware of currents and consider hidden hazards

[Water Safety for Teenagers | Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK\)](#)

Online Safety

For teenagers in the UK, staying safe online means protecting your privacy, recognising scams, and using social media responsibly. Here are some practical tips to discuss with your child:

1. **Keep personal information private.** Avoid sharing your home address, phone number, school, daily routine, or live location with people you don't know.
2. **Use strong, unique passwords.** Create different passwords for each account and enable two-factor authentication (2FA) wherever it's available.
3. **Think before you post.** Photos, videos, and comments can stay online for a long time, even if you delete them. Consider how a post might affect your future.
4. **Be cautious when chatting with strangers.** People online may not be who they claim to be. Never agree to meet someone you've only met online without a trusted adult knowing.
5. **Check your privacy settings.** Review who can see your posts, send you messages, or tag you on social media and gaming platforms.
6. **Watch out for scams and phishing.** Don't click suspicious links, download unknown files, or share passwords or verification codes. Be especially wary of messages claiming you've won prizes or asking for urgent action.
7. **Think critically about what you see online.** Not everything shared on social media or websites is accurate. Check reliable sources before believing or sharing information.
8. **Be respectful online.** Treat others kindly and avoid joining in with bullying, harassment, or sharing harmful content.
9. **Know what to do if you're being bullied.** Save evidence such as screenshots, block the person, report the behaviour on the platform, and tell a trusted adult if it continues or makes you feel unsafe.
10. **Protect your devices.** Keep your phone, tablet, and computer updated with the latest software and use a screen lock.
11. **Be careful with photos and videos.** Never feel pressured to share intimate images. Once shared, you lose control over who might see or distribute them.
12. **Use secure Wi-Fi.** Avoid logging into important accounts or making payments on public Wi-Fi unless you're using a trusted connection.
13. **Take breaks from screens.** Spending time offline, getting enough sleep, and balancing online activities with hobbies and exercise can support your wellbeing.

Know how to report concerns. If you see harmful content or experience something that makes you uncomfortable, use the platform's reporting tools and speak to a trusted adult, teacher, or parent.

- **UK Safer Internet Centre** – Advice on staying safe online for young people, parents, and educators.
- **Childline** – Confidential support for anyone under 19 if something online is worrying or upsetting you.
- **National Crime Agency** – Runs the CEOP Safety Centre, where concerns about online grooming or sexual exploitation can be reported.
- **Internet Watch Foundation** – Accepts reports of criminal online images and videos involving child sexual abuse.



Healthy Relationships

Year 9 students had a superb presentation from Glow this half term on the themes of respectful relationships and misogynistic language.

Here is some practical advice to discuss with your child about healthy relationships:

1. **Be yourself.** A healthy relationship allows you to be who you are without pretending to be someone else.
2. **Communicate honestly.** Share your thoughts and feelings respectfully, and listen carefully when the other person speaks.
3. **Respect each other's boundaries.** Everyone has the right to say "no" and make their own choices.
4. **Build trust.** Be honest, reliable, and keep promises where possible. Trust takes time to develop.
5. **Treat each other with kindness.** Show respect, encourage one another, and celebrate each other's achievements.
6. **Keep your independence.** Continue spending time with friends, family, hobbies, and school or college. A relationship should be part of your life, not your whole life.
7. **Handle disagreements calmly.** It's normal to disagree sometimes. Talk through problems without shouting, insults, threats, or violence.
8. **Never feel pressured.** You should never feel pressured into kissing, sexual activity, sending intimate images, or doing anything that makes you uncomfortable.
9. **Respect each other online.** Don't share private messages or photos without permission, ask for passwords, or constantly check where someone is.
10. **Know the warning signs of an unhealthy relationship.** These can include:
 - Controlling behaviour
 - Extreme jealousy
 - Constant criticism or put-downs
 - Isolating you from friends or family
 - Threats, intimidation, or any form of abuse
 - Making you feel afraid or guilty
11. **Support each other's wellbeing.** Encourage healthy habits, education, interests, and personal goals.
12. **Ask for help if you need it.** If a relationship makes you feel unsafe, worried, or unhappy, talk to a trusted adult such as a parent, carer, teacher, school counsellor, or another trusted person.

A simple way to remember what makes a healthy relationship is **R.E.S.P.E.C.T.:**

- **R**espect each other
- **E**quality in decision-making
- **S**upport one another
- **P**ersonal boundaries
- **E**ffective communication
- **C**onsent is essential
- **T**rust and honesty



Healthy relationships should make you feel **safe, respected, valued, and able to be yourself.**

[Act On It Now](#)

[Tips for Dating and Building Healthy Relationships | Young Minds](#)

YOUNGMINDS

Family Summer Challenge

- * Eat one meal together each day where possible
- * Spend one hour a week outdoors together
- * Have one "phone-free" activity each week
- * Check in with each other every day.

SUMMER SAFEGUARDING CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS

- ☐ I know who my child is spending time with.
- ☐ We have talked about staying safe online.
- ☐ My child knows who to contact in an emergency.
- ☐ We have discussed safe travel and meeting friends.
- ☐ My child knows they can come to me without fear of getting into trouble.
- ☐ Important emergency numbers are saved in their phone.

Resources:

Further support for your child's wellbeing

If you have a child who is struggling with their wellbeing and needs to talk to someone when away from school, please use the contacts below:

Samaritans

[116 123](tel:116123) (freephone)

jo@samaritans.org

Freepost SAMARITANS LETTERS

samaritans.org

Samaritans are open 24/7 for anyone who needs to talk. You can [visit some Samaritans branches in person](#). Samaritans also have a Welsh Language Line on [0808 164 0123](tel:08081640123) (7pm–11pm every day).

Samaritans' helplines are open every day of the year.

North Staffordshire urgent mental health helpline: call [0800 0 328 728](tel:08000328728) option 1 (covers Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs Moorlands).

Advice for children & their families, from early help support through to safeguarding call Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support Service on [0300 111 8007](tel:03001118007)

For mental health support:

Visyon Call [01260 290000](tel:01260290000), out of hours support The Staffordshire Crisis Team on [0300 123 0907](tel:03001230907)

Young Minds www.youngminds.org.uk

For help with any sort of worry, big or small:

NSPCC www.nspcc.org.uk

Childline www.childline.org.uk



The Trussell Trust

[0808 208 2138](tel:08082082138) (Help through Hardship helpline)

trusselltrust.org

Emergency food and support for people in need. Includes a searchable list of local foodbanks.

The Help through Hardship line is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. The helpline is closed on public holidays.