

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.

Welcome to our first newsletter of the academic year. In this edition we are covering Anti-Bullying Behaviour, and as always, reminding 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: Sara 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
Head of Year 11: Mr S Walker: stephen.walker@madeley.set.org

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

Anti-Bullying Week 2025 Monday 10th to Friday 14th November 2025

The theme this year for National Anti-Bullying Week was **'Power for Good'**. The theme has come about following consultation with teachers and pupils by the Anti-Bullying Alliance and is designed to raise awareness of using Power to Stamp Out and Report bullying behaviour, rather than a tool to use bullying behaviour.

In school last week we were working on this with all our year groups during morning registration and also launched our **'STOP IT'** acronym. In this edition we wanted to raise awareness of anti-bullying behaviour and the work we have done to empower our students and school community to become upstanders by using Power for Good.

What is bullying behaviour?

"The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online"

Anti-Bullying Alliance Definition

There are **four** key elements to this definition:

- Hurtful
- Repetition
- Power imbalance
- Intentional

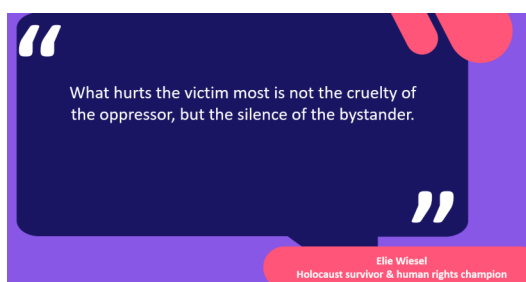


Bullying behaviour can be:

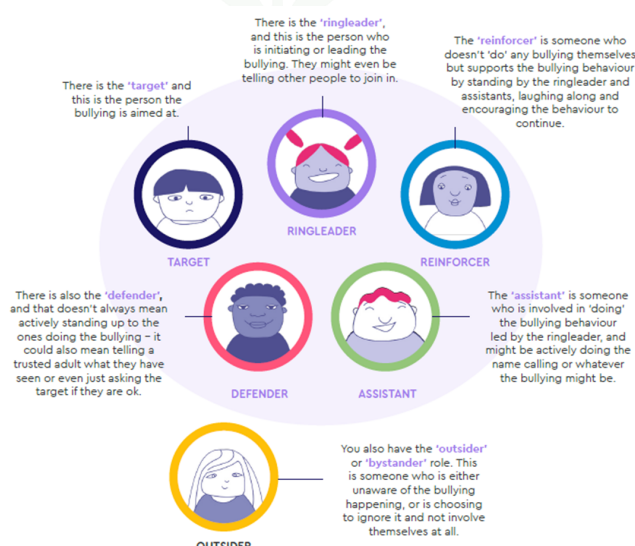
- ⇒ **Physical** – pushing, poking, kicking, hitting, biting, pinching etc.
- ⇒ **Verbal** - name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats, teasing, belittling.
- ⇒ **Emotional** – isolating others, tormenting, hiding books, threatening gestures, ridicule, humiliation, intimidating, excluding, manipulation and coercion.
- ⇒ **Sexual** – unwanted physical contact, inappropriate touching, abusive comments, homophobic abuse, exposure to inappropriate films etc.
- ⇒ **Online /cyber** – posting on social media, sharing photos, sending nasty text messages, social exclusion
- ⇒ **Indirect** - Can include the exploitation of individuals.

Research undertaken in Finland by Chrisina Salmivalli showed that the traditional view of bullying where there is simply a 'victim' and a 'bully' was in fact more complicated, and that there are others who can have significant influence on the outcomes of behaviours, intentionally or otherwise. Bullying tends to be a group behaviour.

This work has lead on from last academic year when we worked with our students both in assemblies and in form time around the roles in bullying, they are the clear on who is involved:



Touching video shows bystanders standing up to 'bullies' | ITV News
www.itv.com/news/2015-10-23/do-you-have-anything-nice-to-say-watch-as-bystanders-challenge-bullies?scrllybrkr=42a0ca28



'The Power of Good'

This year it's important to teach our students that power needs to be used carefully. Power should never be used to dominate, control, coerce or manipulate others. By equipping students with the skills to recognise power dynamics and encourage respect for each other's rights, we can foster an environment where everyone feels they belong, are safe and valued.

We have asked our students to think about:

- Have they ever witnessed bullying and how did it make them feel?
- What could they have done to help?
- How they could use their power to support others?



Part of the work we have done is to ask our students to put together a power agreement in their form groups. They have learnt that a good agreement will have principles such as:

1. Not using our power to hurt or exclude others;
2. That everyone deserves to feel safe, valued, and included;
3. That we can all use our power for good by speaking up and helping others.

Some students will struggle to speak up and use their power for good, for lots of understandable reasons. As mentioned, last year, we did much work around how they can become upstanders and speak out which may not be verbally, and this has been reinforced again when discussing power for good in their sessions last week.



Over the past week, we have introduced our '**STOP IT**' acronym. **STOP IT** stands for two different phrases, one to define bullying and one to explain how to report it:

Definition of Bullying	Action to Take
Several	Start
Times	Telling
On	Other
Purpose	People

The **STOP IT** acronym is designed to raise awareness of what bullying behaviour is and what to do if you see it! At Madeley School it is important that we **STAMP OUT** all forms of bullying behaviour by being upstanders, people who call out and challenge this type of behaviour OR report it to a trusted adult in school.

Why some students display bullying behaviours:

Peer Factors: for example, to attain or maintain social power or to elevate their status in peer group. To fit in with their peer group or exclude others from it. To control the behaviour of their peers.

Family Factors: come from families where there is bullying, aggression or violence at home. May have parents or carers that do not provide emotional support or respond in an authoritarian way. Families where the adults are lenient.

Emotional Factors: the have been bullied in the past, have feelings of low self-esteem or do not understand others emotions. They may not have skills for social situations in healthy, positive ways.



Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs)

Thank you to all the parents and carers who responded to our questionnaire last term regarding potential workshops and support we can put in place for next academic year. We will be using your feedback to tailor make a programme with Meg and the MHST for next academic year.

We are now looking for parents and carers to join a working party, which is designed to support us in enhancing our mental and emotional health provision in school. If you would like to be involved in this, please could we ask you email Mrs Halstead directly to express your interest:

sara.halstead@madeley.set.org

We look forward to hearing from you.

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:

North Staffordshire urgent mental health helpline: call [0800 0 328 728](tel:0800 0 328 728) 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:0300 111 8007)

For mental health support:

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

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



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM

Name: Meg

Trainee Education Mental Health Practitioner

All About Me
Hi, I'm Meg from the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) working within Madeley School.
I am an Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHPI) and my role involves supporting young people and their families with mild to moderate mental health challenges using Low Intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (LICBT). Together we work to identify and address difficult emotions and feelings.
I work in partnership with the school's Mental Health Lead to deliver a whole school approach to mental health; this includes educational workshops, groups, and training to reduce the stigma of mental health and improve outcomes for the whole school community.

Our Core Offer
I support pupils with:
• Worry Management
• Anxiety
• Panic Management
• Low Mood
• Sleep
• Problem Solving
• Exam Stress

If you would like to know more, please speak to Mrs S. Halstead.

Samaritans

[116 123](tel:116 123) (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:0808 164 0123) (7pm–11pm every day).

Samaritans' helplines are open every day of the year.

The Trussell Trust

[0808 208 2138](tel:0808 208 2138) (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.