

# SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

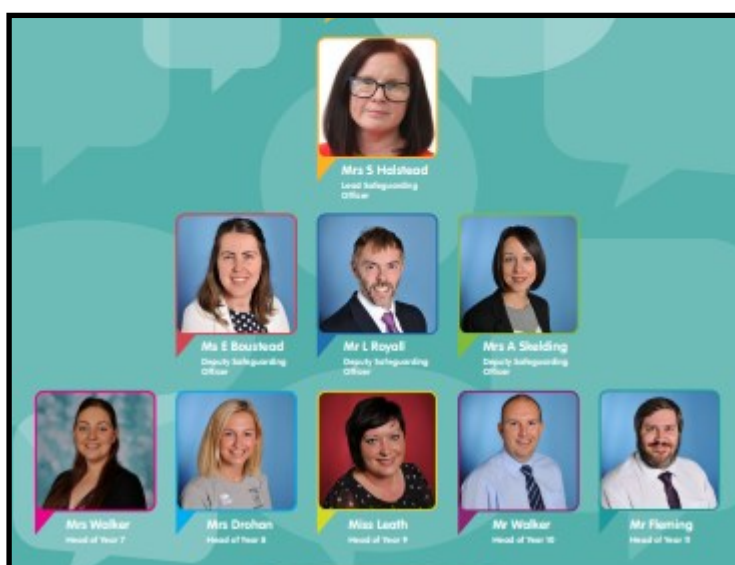
## Our Promise at Madeley School

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 first newsletter of the academic year. In this edition we would like to focus primarily on Sexualised Behaviour and language, and also 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: Sara Halstead ([sara.halstead@madeley.set.org](mailto:sara.halstead@madeley.set.org))
- Deputy Safeguarding Leads: [alexa.skelding@madeley.set.org](mailto:alexa.skelding@madeley.set.org) / [emma.boustead@madeley.set.org](mailto:emma.boustead@madeley.set.org) / [lee.royal@madeley.set.org](mailto:lee.royal@madeley.set.org)
- You can also speak to any of the safeguarding team highlighted above on the main school number or via their email address.

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

## What is sexualised behaviour and language?

Children and young people typically display a range of sexualised behaviours and language as they grow up. However some may display problematic or abusive sexualised behaviour and language. This is harmful to the children who display it as well as the people it's directed towards. **NSPCC Learning**

## What is harmful and sexualised behaviour?

Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) is a term used to describe sexual actions that are outside what is safe for a young person's stage of development. It includes actions that can harm either the child or young person themselves, or another person.

It can include:

- frequently and intentionally accessing age-inappropriate sexual material online
- using inappropriate language
- undertaking mutual sexual activity they are not ready for with peers
- sending and receiving illegal images
- sexual interactions where there are significant power differences, lack of consent, or through force or threats engaging in abusive or sexually violent sexual behaviour online or offline.

### **Stop it now**

Stop it now: has some get advise for parents and carers on how to tell if their child's sexualised behaviour is appropriate for their age.

[How to tell if a child's sexual behaviour is appropriate for their age - Stop It Now](#)

## Dangerous behaviour online

Concerns about social media platforms include children and young people accessing harmful and age-inappropriate content and receiving unwanted sexual messages. The Internet Watch Foundation has reported that they have blocked at least 8.8 million attempts by UK internet users to access videos and images of children suffering sexual abuse during lockdown.

Since we know that a third of those who have engaged in abusive or harmful sexual behaviour are themselves under the age of 18, it is important for parents and carers to consider whether their own children could be responsible for engaging in any of these behaviours either in person or online.

## What is sexting?

Sexting is the sending or posting of naked or semi-naked images, videos, or live streams by young people under the age of 18. This could be via social media, gaming platforms, chat apps, or forums. It could also involve device sharing via services such as Apple's AirDrop, which works offline. The term 'nudes' is used because it is most commonly understood by young people and more accurately describes all types of image sharing incidents. Children and teenagers may use terms such as 'dick pics' or 'pics'.

In the UK the age of consent for sexual intercourse is 16. However, it is an offence to make, distribute, possess or show any indecent images of anyone aged under 18, even if the content was created with the consent of that young person. The law is contained in [Section 1 Protection of Children Act 1978](#). 'Indecent' is not defined in legislation.

To keep children safe from harm, it is important that protective adults and professionals understand how to create a safe environment for children and young people to discuss any concerns they might have and where they can go for support.

### Tips for parents and carers

1. **Communication:** Communicating openly with your children about a wide range of topics, including healthy relationships and staying safe can start from a young age.
2. **Create a safe environment and respond to concerns:** Creating a home environment that is calm, where adult relationships are modelled in a healthy, loving way will help teach children and young people to respect others.
3. **Providing education:** Children and young people will naturally have questions about sex and relationships as they grow up and start to mature. They might want to seek these answers out online, so making sure that they have access to reputable sources to find these answers is important, as well as knowing that they can talk to you. Starting these conversations off when they are young can make it easier to support your children's healthy sexual development.
4. **Balancing rights and responsibilities:** You can help your children to understand their rights and responsibilities, especially when they are online. Encouraging them to think about how they can be kind online and reassuring them you will be there if they need any help. It is important to remember that a child is never responsible if an adult grooms and manipulates them online.

Taken from Stop it now:

[Tips on how to create a safe environment for your family - Stop It Now](#)

 **Confidential Helpline: 0808 1000 900**

### How we support in school

1. We cover a range of topics relating to sexualised behaviour, language, healthy relationships and online safety in our PSHCE lessons in KS3 and PD days in KS4. These lessons are designed to prevent, protect and support all our students across all year groups.
2. We have a strong pastoral support team, who work with students who experience sexualised behaviours and language in and out of school. Bespoke work is done with individuals and where appropriate groups of children, which may include topics relating to sexualised behaviour, language and unhealthy relationships, as well as online safety.
3. Students may work with our school nurse or emotional coach. In some cases outside agencies such as GLOW and our community support police officers.
4. Meetings and support for parents and carers whose child might experience sexualised behaviours, language and unhealthy relationships.

There are times when we are contacted at school by parents and carers regarding the sharing of inappropriate images of their child, or of another which has been sent to their child.

### **Parents/carers whose child has had their nudes or semi-nudes shared publicly should:**

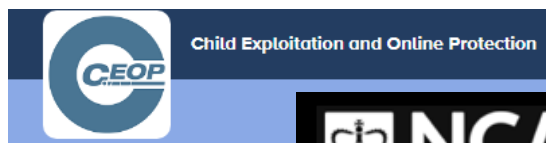
- stay calm and refrain from getting angry with their child
- help their child delete images from social media accounts (included from cloud photo backups) if they have uploaded them themselves
- support their child use the IWF and Childline's Report Remove tool to report an image that has been shared online: [www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/sexting/report-nude-image-online/](http://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/sexting/report-nude-image-online/). They can also help their child to use NCMEC's Take It Down tool to help them remove or limit the spread of nudes or semi-nudes that have been shared online: <https://takeitdown.ncmec.org>.
- report sexual images on individual sites to get them taken down. If the image has been shared via a mobile, they should be informed that they can contact the mobile phone operator to have a mobile number changed.

**Parents/carers whose child has been sent nudes and semi-nudes should be advised to:**

- listen to their child's concerns without criticising their decisions
- consider ways that their child could speak to the sender to stop future correspondences. Alternatively, if the child or young person prefers, informed about how to block the sender
- discuss issues of consent and trust within healthy relationships. Explain that it is not ok for someone to make them feel uncomfortable, to pressure them into doing things that they do not want to do, or to show them things that they are unhappy about. Children can speak to school and/or parents/carers if this ever happens.

**Parents/ carers whose child has shared another child's nudes or semi-nudes should be advised to:**

- stay calm and refrain from getting angry with their child
- discuss issues of consent and trust in healthy relationships or friendships. Talk about the types of things which are and aren't ok to share and how they would feel if someone shared a personal photo of them
- contact their child's education setting if they are concerned that their child is behaving in a sexually inappropriate way. They could also be directed to services for Harmful Sexual Behaviour, such as the National Clinical Assessment and Treatment Service, if appropriate, or if similar incidents have previously occurred.



[How can CEOP help me? | young person](#)



**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)

Samaritans [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

Young Minds [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

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

NSPCC [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)



**YOUNGMINDS**  
fighting for young people's mental health