



The English Martyrs Catholic  
School and Sixth Form College

# SAFEGUARDING & WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

Issue #09 | Spring Term | April 2026

## The Safeguarding Team

at The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College

At The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College everyone is responsible for the safeguarding of students. All staff have had safeguarding training and are familiar with Keeping Children Safe in Education. We all work to ensure our school is a place where students are and feel safe.

**We have four staff designated to deal with your questions, concerns or safeguarding issues.**



**Nicholas Lindsay**  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Rebecca Corcoran**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Tracey Torka**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Kelly Anderson**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

Safeguarding is  
EVERYONE'S Responsibility



# SAFEGUARDING YOUR CHILD

Over the Easter Holiday's if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via email. This email address will be monitored over the break.

**[safeguarding@ems.bhcet.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ems.bhcet.org.uk)**

There are also other support contacts available in the community if you need emergency help:

- NHS Mental Health Hub

If you need urgent mental health support you can call 111 and select the mental health option.

- SHOUT

Shout offers you free, 24/7 text messaging support. If you need someone to talk to about how you are feeling, text SHOUT to 85258.

- YOUNG MINDS

Young Minds are a mental health charity for children, young people and their parents. For more information, visit [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

- KOOTH

Kooth is an online mental health well being community for young people. For ages 11-18. Sign up for free at [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

- CAHMS Crisis NumBer  
0800 0516 171



The English Martyrs Catholic  
School and Sixth Form College

# INFORMATION

At The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College we know how important Safeguarding is. Safeguarding is a vital aspect of any school setting, as it ensures the safety and wellbeing of all students, staff and visitors.

We foster a culture and practice of safeguarding. All staff have annual safeguarding training and all school policies and practices are fully compliant with Keeping Children Safe in Education. We work with professionals to ensure students can thrive and be safe. We take action to enable all children have the best outcomes, as we want our students to have the best start to life.

We have a Safeguarding and Welfare Office in school. Students are welcome to drop in before and after school, during break and lunchtime if they need any support.

If at any time our young people need to speak to a safeguarding officer, they just need to let their teacher know and a safeguarding officer will collect them and speak to the young person.

## CPOMS & Class Charts

We use an online platform called Child Protection Online Management System (CPOMS). CPOMS is used to record relevant information so that documentation and communication are carefully logged in order to ensure children are safe. Class Charts is an online platform used to record achievement and behaviour. We hope to be moving to Arbor in the Summer term replacing Class Charts.

## LANYARDS



Staff and Sixth Form Students wear lanyards so that they can be identified as having the correct checks and have permission to be on site.

- Navy – Safeguarding Team
- Red – EMS Staff
- Yellow – Visitors without a DBS
- Green – Visitors with a DBS
- Black – EMS6 students
- Dark Blue – BHCET staff



# #NeverOk

Bullying | Harassment | Racism | Discrimination



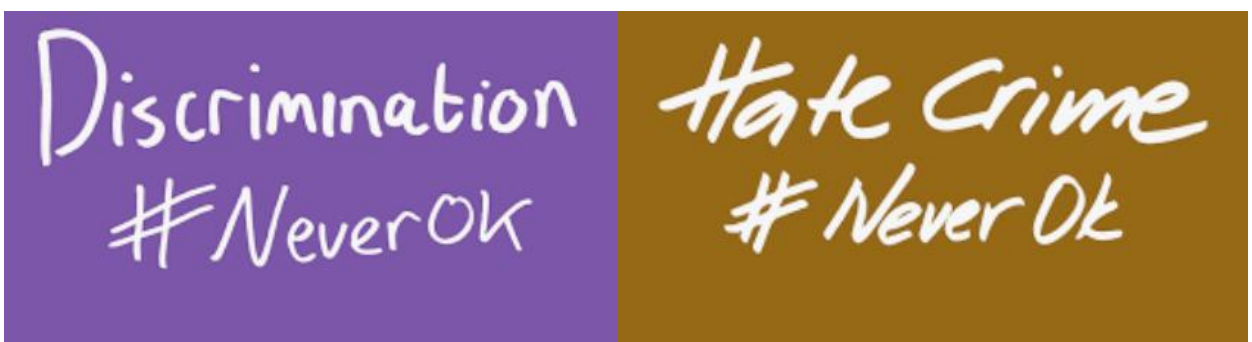
As a school, we have a zero-tolerance attitude towards bullying, harassment and discrimination. We make it clear that it is never ok to portray this behaviour and encourage all students to report anything they see or hear.

Campaigns across the year explore ways in which students can report any forms of bullying or discrimination and identifies who they can speak to if they require support. However, some students may not feel confident enough to speak to someone and that's where our #NeverOK campaign comes in.

The #NeverOK campaign aims to reinforce this message and provides students with the ability to report any incidents of bullying or discrimination that they see, hear or are subjected to. Students can click on the link below to submit any concerns and this will be investigated by the Pastoral and Safeguarding teams.

To report a concern please go to:

<https://ems.bhcet.org.uk/neverok/>



# Supporting Organisations



28 Church Street,  
Hartlepool,  
TS24 7DH

Tuesday 11:00 - 13:30  
Friday 11:00 - 13:30

Hartlepool Foodbank will hold its last session on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. We will re open for our normal session times from Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

[www.hartlepoolnow.co.uk](http://www.hartlepoolnow.co.uk)

Hartlepool Now makes it easy to find out about local events, information, help and support available in Hartlepool. If you need support or assistance, please try Hartlepool Now.

**HartlepoolNow**



**HARTLEPOOL  
COMMUNITY HUBS**

The Hubs bring together a range of services from different organisations under one roof to help you. <https://www.hartlepoolnow.co.uk/pages/home/information-&-advice/you-and-your-community/community-hubs>

FoodCycle Hartlepool welcomes anyone to attend as a guest and enjoy a FREE hot meal. No need to book. Just turn up on the day! During the festive period, FoodCycle Hartlepool will be closed on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December. We will be back open on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

<https://foodcycle.org.uk/>



Working towards a society free from violence and abuse  
Harbour works with families and individuals who are affected by abuse from a partner, former partner or other family member.

24 Hour Helpline:  
03000 20 25 25

# From the HSSCP Project and Engagement Officer

## THE SAFEGUARDING TIMES

### 'Keeping Safe in the Community' Edition

Written by young people, for young people.

#### Our top tips for staying safe when out in the dark:

1. **Stay Together** - Always stay in a group and avoid wandering off alone.
2. **Stay Visible** - wear bright or reflective clothing that would be visible to drivers and keep a torch or phone light handy.
3. **Stay Public** - stick to familiar streets and areas that are well-lit. Avoid dark paths and alleys where possible.

#### Spot the Signs: Exploitation

Exploitation is when an older person takes advantage of a young person, often by making them do things they don't want to do. It can happen in real life or online.

##### What are some of the signs?

- Being asked to keep secrets from family or trusted adults.
- Giving the young person gifts or money but expecting something in return.
- Pressuring the young person into doing things that make them uncomfortable.



If you think you, or someone you know, might be in this situation, tell a trusted adult straight away. You can also call Childline on 0800 1111. Remember, it's never your fault.

#### E-Scooters: What You Need To Know

Did you know that it's illegal to ride a privately-owned e-scooter in public?



With more and more people using e-scooters, it's easy to forget that they riding your own e-scooter on roads, cycle paths and pavements is illegal.

Unfortunately, there has been an increase in the number of young people who have been seriously injured in accidents involving e-scooters. E-Scooters can hit high speeds, which makes crashes very dangerous for both the rider and any other people or vehicles involved.

##### If you see someone riding recklessly, remember the following advice:

- Stay clear and don't confront them.
- Note details of the time, location and the rider if you can.
- Report it to the police if it's serious.

Staying smart keeps everyone safe.



# From the HSSCP Project and Engagement Officer

## People Who Help Us: Fire Safety

By Emmeline Williams & Aarikaa Vijaya Kumar

In late September, two young reporters interviewed Antonia Fawcett, who works at the Cleveland Fire Brigade. Her role as Fire Education Co-ordinator in the community is extremely important as she delivers education and intervention to primary and secondary school students throughout the community. She works with children and teenagers who are involved in fire crime and supports them whilst trying to change the way they view fire. Our reporters have put together a Q&A to find out about the work that Antonia does in keeping our communities safe.

### What's your favourite part of your job?

My job has two parts: it involves going to schools to give assemblies and teach lots of children how to stay safe around fire, and working one-to-one with young people who misuse fire to help them to understand the dangers they are facing and set them down the right path. My favourite part is being able to make a difference and keep young people safe.

### What challenges do the Fire Brigade face in the community?

Cleveland is one of the smallest brigades in the UK, but also one of the busiest. Unfortunately, sometimes dangerous trends on social media can lead young people to do unsafe things which can lead to a spike in callouts for avoidable accidents. Often young people who misuse fire do not understand the severity of the consequences of their actions, and the life-long injuries that can occur - not to mention the damage to public spaces and properties. If you see any unsafe trends online, please report them as soon as possible!



### What can the community do to support the Fire Brigade and help keep everyone safe?

Understand that the Fire Brigade are there to keep you safe, so if you do come into contact with them, treat them with respect and kindness and make sure to follow any instructions or advice that they give you. Make sure you (or your adults) are parked responsibly so that if an ambulance or a fire engine needs to get to an emergency, they can.

If you see someone mis-using fire, please report it as soon as possible!

There are lots of games and resources on **StayWise.co.uk** where young people can learn about emergency services and staying safe.



**Be smart, be safe, be responsible.**

# From the HSSCP Project and Engagement Officer

## THE SAFEGUARDING TIMES

### 'Staying Safe Online' Edition

Written by young people, for young people.

#### Deepfakes: What You Need to Know

Written by KS4 Students from Ingleby Manor



You've probably seen videos online that look real, but something just feels... off. Welcome to the world of deepfakes — videos or images where AI changes someone's face, voice, or actions to make it look like they did or said something they never actually did.

Sometimes it's obvious, but most times it is hard to spot. If it looks a bit unrealistic, trust your gut — it probably is.

Here are some quick ways to spot a deepfake:

- The person's mouth doesn't match the words properly.
- Their voice sounds kind of robotic or computer-y.
- There are strange watermarks or signs that AI was used.
- Something just feels... off. (Yes, your brain is actually good at noticing this!)

The big thing to remember?

**You can't believe everything you see online.**

So stay smart, stay curious, and always think twice before sharing something that seems a little too wild to be real.

#### What Is Online Blackmail?

Written by KS3 Student Council at St Hild's CofE School

Online blackmail, sometimes called 'Sextortion', is when someone threatens to share private information, images, or videos—stuff you'd never want shared - unless something is done for them (often asking for money or gift cards). It is a form of abuse and is a criminal offence.

##### What are the warning signs?

- They might have a fake profile (not much content, very few images, no mutual friends).
- They try to get to know you very quickly.
- It seems too good to be true - they might pretend to be a modelling scout or say they can help you make quick money etc.
- They pressure you to do things you're not comfortable with.

##### What to do if something feels wrong, or if someone is threatening you:

- Report the account to the app you're using
- Block the account
- Talk to a trusted adult (parent, teacher, youth worker—anyone you feel safe with).
- If someone is threatening you, tell the police straight away, you can also report it CEOP.

If someone has shared an image or video of you online without your consent and you're under 18, you can get help to get it removed from Report Remove, and Take It Down.



CEOP



Report Remove



Take It Down



For more information, support, resources and more, visit the HSSCP Children and Young People's webpage!

Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees

**SAFEGUARDING  
CHILDREN  
PARTNERSHIP**



# From the HSSCP Project and Engagement Officer

## People Who Help Us: Cyber Crime

Written by KS3 Students at High Tunstall College of Science

Earlier this term, we interviewed Kelly Close, who is a Cyber Protect and Prepare Officer for Cleveland Police. Kelly works to make the online space safer for all, including helping to protect young people from cyber-crimes. We put together a Q&A to find out more about the work that Kelly does and how she helps to make the online space safer.

### **What is your role and how do you help to protect young people online?**

Protecting young people online can be very challenging as most of our lives are online now – young people spend lots of time online talking, playing games, social media etc. My role includes looking for the risks online. I also do lots of webinars online with parents to help them to recognise what they need to know and help them to understand the risks and how to manage them.

I also help them to learn how to spot AI – there is something called AI hallucinations where it will 'fill in the gaps' if it doesn't know all the information, which can lead to some pretty big mistakes! AI can have a darker side too and can be used inappropriately at times which can be very serious for the victims and can have very serious consequences for the perpetrator, even if they didn't realise that what they were doing was illegal.

### **What is the most common cyber-crime you see that affects young people?**

For young people, it is social media account take-over to try and scams for money or things like concert tickets. Once someone has taken your account, it can be very difficult to get it back and the hackers often use it to try and scam your friends who are linked to your account.



Unfortunately, one of the other most common crimes against young people online is 'sextortion', which is where someone might ask for private images and use this to try to blackmail a young person. It is very serious and needs to be reported at the earliest opportunity so we can help to protect the young people who might be involved.

### **What advice would you give to young people to help them use the internet safely?**

Think BEFORE you post or share. There are tools that can help to get things taken down, but there is a limit to what can be done once something is up on the internet and please remember that there can be very real-world consequences to what happens online. Use really strong passwords and use a good core password for your account – NEVER have the word 'password' as part of your password! If something happens, please tell someone and get help.

Don't click any links, especially on sites like Discord.

Make sure your devices are updated as they often include fixes for security issues.

Most importantly, look after each other.

# Personal Development at EMS

This term, KS3 students have completed two mornings focusing on Personal Development with relevant topics to the students age and incidents within the community. The English Martyrs Catholic School have used Pol-Ed. Pol-Ed “want to create a world where children and young people are safe. Pol-Ed’s impact in schools will inspire a generation of change makers who will help shape a positive, inclusive and lawful society for everyone”.

Year 7 students have covered the following topics:

Anti-Racism  
Criminal Responsibility  
Independence and Risk  
Vaping



Year 8 students have covered the following topics:

E-Rides  
Possession of Drugs  
Deep Fakes  
Financial Extorsion

Year 9 students have covered the following topics:

County Lines  
Antisocial Behaviour  
Gaming and Grooming  
Child Exploitation

We have been really proud of our students maturity and engagement in these sessions. More information for parents/carers is available on these topics and lesson content if required.

# School Safeguarding Council

This term, our form reps have once again met and discussed key topics provided by the Hartlepool Borough Council Safeguarding Council.

Topics which were discussed and fed back to the council were;

- Online Safety in a Connected World
- Deepfakes and Misinformation
- Critical Thinking – Fact vs Opinion
- The Rise of AI
- Online Radicalisation and Influence

These conversations have helped our young people deepen their understanding of how to stay safe online, how to support one another, and how to make informed choices in an increasingly digital society. Their insights contribute to the wider safeguarding efforts across the Hartlepool area and ensure that the voices of young people remain central to the council's work. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all our Form Representatives for their maturity, engagement, and thoughtful contributions this term. Their willingness to participate and share their views helps strengthen the safety and wellbeing of the entire Hartlepool community. By taking part so actively, they are helping to keep families safe—both now and for the future—and we are extremely proud of the role they play in this important work.



**Hartlepool**  
Borough Council

start

Starting  
the day

with a  
clear  
head?

It's ok if you've tried drinking or drugs but it's important to understand when it's starting to affect your day to day.

If you're aged under 18 and concerned that your drinking or drug use is getting out of hand, no matter what advice or level of support you need Start young people's service can help.

For a quick and confidential step towards getting you back on track use the free text service on [www.hartlepool.gov.uk/start\\_yp](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/start_yp) or scan the QR code below and a member of our team will get back to you.



Speak to us. Call 01429 285000

# SAFEGUARDING STAFF AND VISITORS

In addition to protecting and supporting young people, it is vital as a school we protect staff and visitors. When you visit the school site between the hours of 7:00am and 4:30pm, we ask for all visitors to sign in at the main office, in the Sixth Form Block. No visitors should enter the site without reporting here first. Visitors are inducted with the relevant safeguarding policies and procedures (these can also be found on the school website).



*me, you, us*  
safeguarding is everyone's  
responsibility

We want to ensure that our staff are safe from abuse. As a school we do not tolerate any aggression or abuse directed towards our staff. We work to ensure school and parents/carers have good relationships to support our children. There may be a situation where you need to talk to a member of staff. Please make an appointment as we can not accommodate meetings that are not pre-arranged.

## School Site

Safeguarding in schools is important to ensure that the school environment is safe and secure for all. This includes ensuring that emergency procedures are in place in case of an emergency. We have annual fire drills and lock down drills.





BISHOP HOGARTH  
Catholic Education Trust

# ATTENDANCE

*Why is it so important?*

Children are required by law to attend school **190 days per year**. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least **95%**.

ATTENDANCE	DAYS ABSENT	WEEKS ABSENT	LESSONS MISSED
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

*How do you measure up?*

**89% & Below**

Drastic effect on academic achievement

**95% - 90%**

Cause for concern

**100% - 96%**

Excellent



# HELP IN THE COMMUNITY

In addition to the support within The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College, there is also assistance within the community via the NHS.



## Hartlepool Health Social Prescribing

The aim of Social Prescribing is to help people live their lives as well as possible, with a focus on supporting them to take control of and to improve their health, well being and social welfare by linking patients up with community organisations.

Sometimes your GP may not be the best person to help you. You may want to consider speaking to one of your Social Prescribing link workers who can help you with a range of issues.

### These Include:

- Housing issues
- Bereavement support
- community signposting info
- Educational support
- Employment support
- Exercise
- Financial support
- Health promotion
- Social isolation
- Support for carers
- Low-level mental health (mild anxiety & depression caused by social factors)

### Referral process

You can self refer to one of our Social Prescribers by contacting your GP practice or alternatively completing an E-consult via your GP practice website. One of our Social Prescribers will contact you to chat more in detail about what is affecting you.

McKenzie House Surgery  
Victoria Medical Practice  
Throston Medical Centre  
Headland Medical Centre  
Hartfields Medical Centre  
Wynyard Road Medical Centre

**NHS**



# CONTACT

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via email. This email address will be monitored over the Easter period for emergency contact.

[safeguarding@ems.bhcet.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ems.bhcet.org.uk)



The English Martyrs Catholic  
School and Sixth Form College