



Woodchurch High School

# Safeguarding Newsletter

February 2024



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## Updates

This is the seventh of our safeguarding updates for parents and carers.

As you will be aware from recent communications, Mr Canham is the new Headteacher and therefore there is a change in the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Mr Joplin is the new DSL and Mr Smith continues to be the Deputy Safeguarding Lead. If you would like to report any concerns please contact Mr Joplin and Mr Smith via [safeguarding@woodchurchhigh.com](mailto:safeguarding@woodchurchhigh.com) email or on the main school number 0151-677-5257.

We would like to ensure you are fully informed of any further updates and would encourage you to access the 'Parent Hub'. You can access this information here:

[Parents' Hub](#)

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# Wellbeing

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I am sure you are aware that there are increasing social challenges that young people are facing. We are determined as a school to support and serve the needs of our pupils when they arise.

We have recently relaunched our mental health and wellbeing service to highlight to pupils the support that is on offer from school, but also outside agencies with whom we work.

This poster has been used to inform pupils of the different facets of support and each week pupils are reminded via a wellbeing bulletin of one of each of the strands of support on offer.

**Trusted Adult**  
Talk to a trust adult about your worry  
It would be a teacher, teaching assistant, a member of the premises staff or lunchtime supervisor.  
They can listen, offer advise or pass on your worry to someone who can help

**Well Being Activity booklet**  
See your Pastoral Leader for a brilliant booklet full of activities you can do at home to help you with your well being.

**Pastoral Support**  
Speak to your Pupil Progress Leader or Assistant Pupil Progress Leader about your worry or concern and they will help you

**Chaplaincy Support**  
See your Pupil Progress Leader if you would like to speak to one of the Chaplaincy Team

**Ask WESS**  
Email Ask WESS for confidential written feedback from other pupils  
[askwess@woodchurchhigh.com](mailto:askwess@woodchurchhigh.com)

**Ask WESS LIVE**  
Daily face-to-face counselling from different groups of pupils each lunchtime in the Chaplaincy Office  
(more information on the Ask WESS poster)

**What is the well being and mental health support that is on offer for you from Woodchurch High school?**

**Learning Mentor Support**  
See your Pupil Progress Leader if you would like to speak to one of our mentors

**Mindfulness booklet**  
We have booklets to introduce you to Mindfulness which is a way to support your WellBeing when you are on your own.  
See your Pastoral Leader

**Childline**  
08001111  
**Papyrus suicide helpline**  
08000684141  
**Kooth.com**

**Outside Agencies**  
We work with:  

- Action for Children who offer emotional support
- Health Services in School who offer support around drink, drugs and sexual health
- The Brook

See your Pastoral Leader for more information

God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort.  
He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.  
When we are troubled, we are able to give them the same comfort God has given us  
2 Corinthians 1

**Daily after school clinic**  
Each evening from 3:15-3:45, there is a member of the Pastoral Staff in the Chaplaincy Office for support



We believe that for pupils to thrive in school, they need to be able to access support for their emotional wellbeing

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## Attendance

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All schools across the country are committed to improving attendance. In order for pupils to make the most of their gifts and talents, they need to be in lessons accessing face to face learning.

We know that for some of our community, there are challenges to overcome to ensure positive school attendance and we are committed to working in partnership with yourself and our Local Authority Attendance Officer to ensure that pupils are attending regularly. We wish for all pupils to leave with the very best possible qualifications to allow them to be in control of their post-16 destination and to have a successful next step in their journey to adulthood.

It is important that you echo these messages at home, talking to your child if they have been reluctant to attend, or leaving lessons without permission. If you then contact us, we will work in partnership with yourselves to overcome these barriers and support your child to engage and achieve.

We band pupils depending on their attendance as below and we want to work together to ensure that as many pupils as possible have GOLD attendance. Only then can they have the best chance of achieving their potential.

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>97% or more</b>
<b>SILVER</b>	<b>95% to 96.9%</b>
<b>BRONZE</b>	<b>94% to 94.9%</b>
<b>RED</b>	<b>90% to 93.9%</b>
<b>BLUE</b>	<b>Less than 90%</b>

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# Keeping your child safe

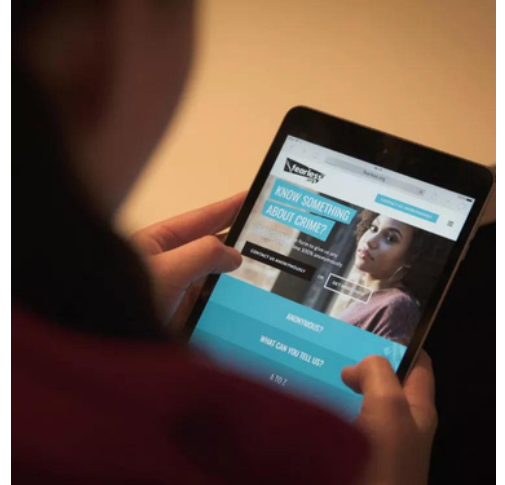
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We work in partnership with local agencies, including the police and we have been informed of a new Youth Service which is part of the national Crimestoppers charity.

Fearless is a new dedicated youth service and enables young people to pass on information about crime anonymously. The service also provides information about crime, advice for concerned friends and family and approved educational resources.

The website is <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless> and there is a direct line 0800 555 111

We will be informing pupils of this service in school



Keeping children safe online is another concern for many parents and carers. Technology is evolving so quickly that it is often hard to keep up with the apps that young people are accessing, There are also people who will look to take advantage of children using social media.

# NSPCC

The NSPCC offers a helpline for parents and carers to access should they have concern about what their child is accessing online. They provide expert advice and support for parents who are concerned about a child. They also provide advice on keeping children safe online.

This service can be accessed using the following link: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> or there is a direct line 0808 800 5000

The National Crime Agency CEOP Education also offers advice for parents and carers on what to do if there is a concern regarding criminal online activity. This can be accessed using the following link: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/theres-a-viral-scare-online-what-should-i-do>

Finally, there is also a webpage for parents and carers with general advice and guidance about online safety issues.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>



internet  
matters.org

The logo for Internet Matters, featuring the text 'internet matters.org' in white lowercase letters on a bright green rectangular background.

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## Family Toolbox

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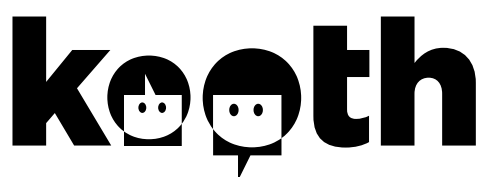
The local authority provides a free online resource for all parents and carers with tips and tools to support a healthy and happy family life. There is an easy to use website with resources and advice on all aspects of parenting.

There is expert advice, videos, but also articles written by other parents with their tips and advice

This excellent resource can be accessed via the following link

<https://familytoolbox.co.uk/>

We trust that you find the information enclosed useful, should you wish for any support or guidance, or wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education, please do not hesitate to contact school and we will look to continue to work in partnership with yourself



Kooth is a 24 hours a day free, safe and anonymous online support service that offers guidance, advice and counselling. Recent research from Kooth shows that 96% of young people say it's important they can access Kooth outside of school or work hours.

Kooth is here to support Mental Health cases when students are not in school, offering a clinically safe space to chat to a qualified practitioner. One young person said: "You can access [Kooth] whenever you need it, for example after a hard day of school you can talk to someone on a live chat, find out ways to cope and have a much better night."

<https://www.kooth.com/>

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# Snapchat

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As you were made aware recently, the local police force made the school aware of a Snapchat group called, "Wirral Rumours/Whispers" that had been set up.

Young people are added to this group without consent and all posts are anonymous. There are then malicious rumours exchanged regarding pupils in local schools on the Wirral. Specific addresses have been posted with messages such as, "egg this house". This is very concerning and it has been reported to the police.

We would urge you to monitor all your child's online and social media activity closely, reporting any incidents to the police or via CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online protection)

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre>

We will continue to raise awareness around online safety through our PSHE curriculum.



# Scabies

We would like to raise awareness around scabies due to some recent data we have received from the local authority. Scabies is a skin infection caused by tiny mites that burrow in the skin. The appearance of a rash can signify a possible outbreak, most scabies rash look like tiny pimples and nodules on the skin. Secondary infection can occur particularly if the rash has been scratched.

Scabies can be spread through direct contact with an infected person and will remain infectious until treated.

## What you need to do

Be vigilant to any infection you may see on your child or ward. Ensure you seek advice on how to treat the infection. Ensure all treatments are completed. Further information can be found by accessing UK Health Security Agency



## Should I keep my child off school?

### Yes

#### Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

### No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

#### Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

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# County Lines

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County Lines is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs. The 'County Line' is the mobile phone line used to take the orders of drugs. Importing areas (areas where the drugs are taken to) are reporting increased levels of violence and weapons-related crimes as a result of this trend.



A common feature in county lines drug supply is the exploitation of young and vulnerable people. The dealers will frequently target children and adults - often with mental health or addiction problems - to act as drug runners or move cash so they can stay under the radar of law enforcement. In some cases the dealers will take over a local property, normally belonging to a vulnerable person, and use it to operate their criminal activity from. This is known as cuckooing. People exploited in this way will quite often be exposed to physical, mental and sexual abuse, and in some instances will be trafficked to areas a long way from home as part of the network's drug dealing business. As we have seen in child sexual exploitation, children often don't see themselves as victims or realise they have been groomed to get involved in criminality. So it's important that we all play our part to understand county lines and speak out if we have concerns.

## Safeguarding our Children from County Lines

To safeguard our children from being exploited it is important we are vigilant. Behaviours to be aware of include

- New friendship group
- Unexplained, sometimes unaffordable items such as clothes, jewellery, mobile phones)
- Young person going missing
- Young person in different cars and taxis driven by unknown adults
- Truancy and disengagement in school
- Increase in anti-social behaviour
- Unexplained injuries

## What to do if you have a concern

The best advice is to trust your instincts. Even if someone isn't involved in county lines drug dealing, they may be being exploited in some other way, so it's always worth speaking out. You can speak to your local police by dialling 101, or in an emergency 999. If you would rather remain anonymous, you can contact the independent charity [Crimestoppers](#) on 0800 555 111. If you notice something linked to the railways, you can report concerns to the British Transport Police by texting 61016 from your mobile. In an emergency dial 999. If you are a young person who is worried about your involvement, or a friend's involvement in county lines. A good option is to speak to an adult you trust and talk to them about your concerns. You can also call Childline on 0800 1111. Childline is private and confidential service where you can talk to specially trained counsellors about anything that is worrying you.

Alternatively, speak to a children and young people's service like [Catch 22](#). They work with children and young people of any age to help get them out of situations they're worried about, and have helped lots of children and young people involved in County Lines.