



Halesowen
College

Student Safeguarding

Here for you.

Halesowen College's Safeguarding Team:



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Safeguarding Officer



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Safeguarding Officer

“Halesowen College is a safe place where every student should feel protected and supported. As a college, we have a duty of care to ensure your safety and well-being.”

Here for you.

What is child protection and safeguarding about?

It is about you: your health - mental and physical, safety and welfare. All of these are important to us. We want you to be safe inside and outside of college.

Safeguarding means that all staff will aim to:

- Respect all students and help protect your rights
- Protect you from harm
- Prevent anything stopping you from being able to finish your course
- Make sure that you can stay healthy (mentally and physically)
- Support you to have the best life chances and take your next steps

Staff will:

- Offer support when you are having difficulties in college or at home.
- Make college a welcoming, friendly, and supportive place
- Help you recognise risks and how to stay safe both on and offline
- Be there to talk to and know what to do if you need help
- Follow the rules in our college policies
- Listen, hear and believe what you are saying
- Always let you know what will happen next

In college:

We will make sure that we know who everyone is in the college by:

- Making sure that students and staff wear their lanyards
- Asking visitors to sign in at reception, wear a visitor lanyard and be escorted whilst they are here
- People that we do not know will not be able to spend time alone with you
- Dealing with any intruders quickly and effectively
- Help you to know what to do if the fire alarm sounds

ABUSE

Physical abuse: this can include hitting, throwing of objects, bruising, biting etc.

Sexual abuse: includes inappropriate touching that makes you feel uncomfortable. It can also be someone making you watch things to do with sex or encouraging you to act in an inappropriate way. This could be by an adult - male or female but it could also be another student. If someone is making sexualised comments to you (or says that this is just 'banter') and it is making you feel uncomfortable, this is not OK and should not be accepted.

Neglect: this can mean not being provided with clothes, food or warmth and shelter. It can also mean not being supported to attend hospital or GP appointments when you need to go. There are many reasons why someone may be neglected and it is really important that we know so that we can help.

Emotional abuse: this is when someone upsets you or makes you feel bad, sad, or worthless. This can be by members of your family or friends.

Abuse is never ok and if you are being or have been abused it is important to remember that this is NOT YOUR FAULT. There is always someone who can help.

Remember, you can speak to any member of staff if you are worried about anything – staff are not able to promise confidentiality and sometimes a member of staff will need to check things with the Safeguarding Team.

If you have worries or concerns about yourself or a friend, please report this to the college safeguarding team as soon as possible. You can also use the **'Report it'** form on My Halesowen to do this if you prefer. We will always take this very seriously when you tell us.

There are times when the Safeguarding Team may need to contact other agencies for support. These may be Children's Services (Social Workers) or Police. There are lots of other agencies who support students and their families. We will contact parents where this is appropriate, to allow us all to keep you safe.

Staff are here to support you and will explain all of this to you. You can always go and ask them questions if you are unsure of anything.

Hints and tips for keeping yourself safe:

- If you think a student or an adult is bullying you or someone you know, report it to a teacher/member of the Safeguarding Team or someone you can trust as soon as you can.
- If anyone says something to you or you hear something that upsets you, report it to a teacher/member of the Safeguarding Team or someone you trust as soon as you can.
- If someone is hitting, smacking and hurting you or if someone is touching you in inappropriate places, or making you feel uncomfortable, you might be asked to keep it a secret. Secrets like this are not to be kept. You must tell a teacher/member of the Safeguarding Team or someone you can trust as soon as you can.
- Presents are a good thing to receive from family and friends, but sometimes other adults / peers may try to give you money or gifts to persuade you to do things that you are not comfortable with – this is called exploitation. Think hard before you accept.

PREVENT:

There are people or groups who may try to make you change your views, values or beliefs and draw you into situations that may make you feel scared, uncomfortable or at risk of harm. This can involve things such as animal rights, far left/right beliefs or terrorist related content. You need to speak to someone straight away if this happens, whether this is online or in real life. We may have to contact our partnership agencies through Dudley Safety Team to access the right support.

The college PREVENT lead is Kylie Penn. She can be found in 3.101. You can contact her via TEAMS or by phone on 01216027716. Alternatively, you can speak to a member of the Safeguarding team.

Consent:

Consent can be broadly defined as a person freely or voluntarily agreeing to participate in a wide range of activities and interactions. It is important to recognise the laws around consent.

Consent to sexual activity means actively saying yes, using both words and body language. Consent means always checking the other person is happy to have sex or take part in sexual activity of any kind. If the other person's body language and behaviour changes, please check in. Remember you can withdraw consent at any time.

Computers/Phones/Social Media:

Our use of computers and phones has become an important part of how we stay connected with our friends and family and share pictures and stories. It is important you know how to stay safe online and on the computer, your phone and on social media. Never share passwords or login details or any personal information such as, address, college or bank details with anyone. You should never send inappropriate/intimate photos of yourself to anyone else.

It is important to protect your online reputation, "think before you post". Make sure the source is reliable and trustworthy. Make sure you know how to report any concerns on the internet platforms you use and respect the law.

Please talk to a member of staff or the college Safeguarding Team if you have seen something on your computer that makes you feel uncomfortable or worried. You can also report to [CEOP Safety Centre](#).

The college CEOP ambassador is Kylie Penn who can be found in room 3.101 or contactable via TEAMS or 01216027716. Alternatively, you can speak to a member of the Safeguarding team.

Police Officer on site:

PC Paul Denyer is a prevention and intervention officer. He is available for you to speak to if you feel that this would be helpful.

You can ask him questions or report things that may be worrying you.

You may meet him in your tutorial as he gives talks on a wide variety of issues.

It is important to remember that he must follow rules and if what is reported is criminal, he will have to follow the rules of the Police force.

Advice and guidance:

For any advice or guidance that you need about safeguarding, please go to the Safe and Well Hub – Block 2 upstairs (just by the library) - there will always be a member of the team available for you to talk to.

Misinformation:

Not everything online is true, always check facts before sharing.
Use trusted sources like official news websites or educational platforms.

Cross-check information with multiple reliable sources.
Be cautious of sensational headlines or viral posts that lack evidence.

Disinformation - Some content online is deliberately false to mislead people.

Look out for emotionally charged language or content that seems too extreme.

Check the source, ask: Who posted this? What's their motive?

Report harmful or misleading content to platform moderators or a trusted adult.

Misogyny - Online hate targeting women is harmful, champion respectful dialogue.

Don't engage with or share misogynistic content, report it instead.

Support friends or classmates who are targeted and speak up if it's safe to do so.
Follow and promote positive, respectful voices online.

Appendix 1

Useful Links:

Wisdom: Free 24/7 Student Wellbeing Helpline - 0800 028 3766

A 24/7 Student Wellbeing Helpline from Health Assured to support you through any of life's issues or problems.

Download the Wisdom App from Google Play/App Store and register today. Unique code: MHA330544 <https://wisdom.healthassured.org/login>

Papyrus UK: <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/>

Are you, or is a young person you know, not coping with life? For confidential suicide prevention advice contact HOPELINEUK. We are open 9am–midnight every day. PAPYRUS UK is a charity for the prevention of young suicide (under 35) in the UK | Call PAPYRUS HOPELINEUK on 0800 068 4141

Shout: <https://giveusashout.org/>

For free 24/7 Mental Health support TEXT 'SHOUT' to 85258

Samaritans: <https://www.samaritans.org/> – 24/7 phone line 116 123

Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan will face it with you. Samaritans are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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

Your online mental wellbeing community – Free, safe and anonymous support

Young Minds: [YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds](https://www.youngminds.org.uk/)

The Children's society: [The Children's Society | UK children's charity](https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/)

Brook Clinic: <https://www.brook.org.uk>

Free and confidential sexual health and wellbeing support.

Lets Chat: <https://letschatwellbeing.co.uk/resources/>

Take It Down: <https://takeitdown.ncmec.org>

The Mix: [The Mix - Essential support for under 25s](https://www.themix.org.uk/)

Happier Minds: <https://happierminds.org.uk>

Shore Space: <https://shorespace.org.uk>

Talk Grief: [Home \(talkgrief.org\)](https://www.talkgrief.org/)

Talk Grief is a dedicated online space for grieving teenagers and young adults (13 to 25), powered by the childhood bereavement charity Winston's Wish. Here you can learn from other young grieving people, find healthy ways to cope and feel less alone. You'll find out what it's really like to live with grief from teenagers and young adults, along with advice and tips on managing your grief from our bereavement experts.

Funeral Guide: <https://www.funeralguide.co.uk/college>

CEOP: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

For help and support regarding online behaviour.

Feeling and staying safe: <https://www.themix.org.uk/crime-and-safety/personal-safety>

Keep Children Safe Online: [Information, Advice, Support - Internet Matters](#)

Rape and sexual violence: <https://rapecrisis.org.uk/get-help/want-to-talk/>

West Mercia – <https://www.wmrsasc.org.uk/>

Black Country – <https://blackcountrywomensaid.co.uk/>

Birmingham and Sandwell – <https://rsvporg.co.uk/>

SARAS: <https://www.saras.org.uk/support-and-information/saras-self-help-guides/>

Domestic violence support (Includes information for males, LGBTQ+, and those at risk of forced marriage / honour based abuse):

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/getting-help-for-domestic-violence/>

Alcohol issues:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/alcohol-advice/alcohol-support/>

Drug addiction support:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/addiction-support/drug-addiction-getting-help/>

[Drug and Alcohol Support | WithYou](#)

Exploitation support

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/>

Barnardos Trafficking services <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/protecting-children/trafficked-children>

[Home - Krunch](#)

Galop: <https://galop.org.uk>

Our team has decades of experience in supporting LGBT+ people who are victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence, hate crime, so-called conversion therapies, honour-based abuse, forced marriage, and other forms of abuse.

Help in a crisis. Call 111 Option 2 or Mental Health Direct on 0800 995 1000 | NELFT NHS Foundation Trust

Appendix 2

Additional information on the various safeguarding terms:

Exploitation

Exploitation is a type of abuse in which children are exploited for money, power or status.

Child on child abuse

Child on child abuse occurs when a young person is exploited, bullied and / or harmed by their peers who are the same or similar age.

Sexual Harassment and Violence

Sexual harassment is any unwanted sexual behaviour that makes someone feel upset, scared, offended or humiliated, or is meant to make them feel that way. Sexual assault is a type of sexual violence – the phrase we use to describe any sexual activity or act that happened without consent.

So called honour-based abuse

Honour-based abuse is a crime or incident committed to protect or defend the 'honour' of a family or community.

Forced Marriage

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not, or cannot, consent (agree) to the marriage.

FGM

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a procedure where the female genitals are deliberately cut, injured or changed, but there's no medical reason for this to be done.



Report It

