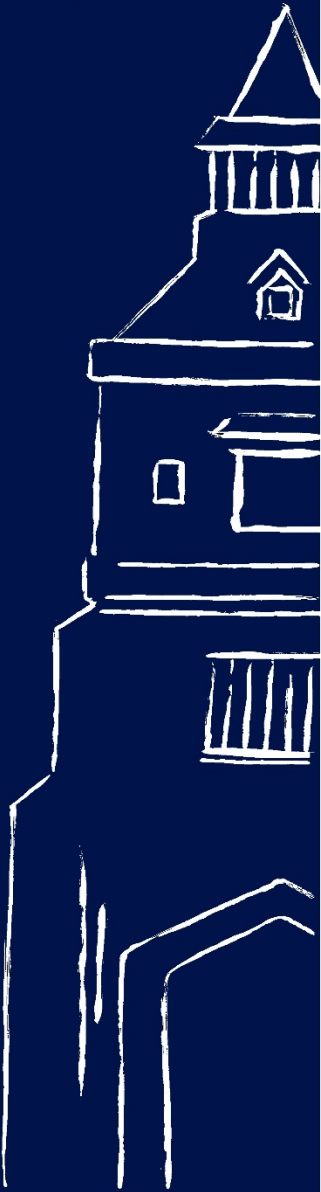


# SAFEGUARDING



# HOW TO KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

What is safeguarding...

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children.

# WHILST SCHOOL HAS CLOSED

- It may seem that this is no longer a concern however.....with asking children to be working remotely; staying safe on-line is of paramount importance
- Parents – you can help by checking parental controls on home broadband and...
  - making sure there are regular breaks away from the screen
  - monitor what your child is doing
  - Use safe search on Google (& other browsers) & YouTube; encourage use of age-appropriate search engines
  - set clear boundaries of time of day, length of time and activities

# KEY ISSUES

- Social media – the older children will, we are sure, be in contact with each other, either through an app / group chat / text message; please do check these as we can only monitor what we see on Teams
- It is very easy to get carried away in conversations online, children need to remember to only post kind and acceptable comments online
- Equally, they should remember never to post any details about themselves online

# WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- Set up safe social media profiles that do not share personal information
- Turn off geo location settings on devices
- Use the strongest privacy settings on social media
- Learn how to block/ mute and report inappropriate posts/content to the social media providers

# DO TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT THE FOLLOWING

- Agree how your child will respond to requests from people they don't know in real life
- Make sure your child knows to never meet up with anyone they don't know in real life
- Make your child aware that sometimes people have other identities online for dishonest reasons
- Talk to a trusted adult if they experience anything upsetting online
- Think carefully about sharing images of others
- Be responsible online, remembering they are creating their own digital footprint

# PASTORAL SUPPORT

- Each week, Form Tutors will be in contact with the members of their form to see how they are and how they are managing with the work that has been set.
- Just as the children do in school, they can talk to their Form Tutor or indeed can email Mr Bartley, Head of Middle School; Mr de Bruin, Head of Upper School or Mrs Everton, Assistant Head Pastoral.
- We have also added a way through Teams for children to share any concerns regarding themselves and others which a member of staff can act upon.
- Parents, if you have any concerns, please do feel that you can contact the member of staff that you would normally turn to; we are all still working together to support your child.

# MENTAL HEALTH

- In these uncertain times, what can you do to protect your child's mental health...
- Routine is important so try to have a timetable so that your child knows what the plan for the day is
- Try and build in some time outside – playing in the garden and getting some fresh air
- Get creative - baking a cake, drawing, painting, even helping with any jobs around the house can be valuable down time
- Reading is a great way of escaping – this can be a great time to explore new authors
- For those who like Lego – try the 30-day Lego challenge or research sites for 100 + indoor activities



# WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD..

**If you are worried about a child whilst the school is closed, do please contact Mireille Everton – Lead DSL at BG, other designated safeguarding leads are Mr Osiatynski, Mrs Gedye and Mr de Bruin; if you are unable to contact us and you are still worried, you can report a concern to the MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) or the police. You should do this if in your opinion a child is at risk of immediate harm and no designated person is available.**

Warwickshire MASH Telephone: 01926 414144  
(Emergency Duty Service on 01926 886922)

Police Telephone 999 (any area)

If the child lives in Coventry, Northamptonshire or Leicestershire, you will need to contact the MASH for the area in which they live:

Coventry Telephone: 024 7678 8555  
Northamptonshire Telephone: 0300 126 1000  
Leicestershire Telephone: 0116 305 0005