

22nd October 2021

Parent/ Carer Newsletter

Safeguarding and Wellbeing Newsletter October 2021



Welcome to the first safeguarding and Well-Being Newsletter of the academic year. We publish this newsletter each half term to provide families and children with the most up to date safeguarding news. It also provides us with the opportunity to share information on a range of relevant safeguarding items.

As always please have a wonderful but safe half term. Over the half-term period the DSL team will be here to help our families if required. Please see our website for contact details and out of school hour's services.

This term we are addressing the following areas which are of relevance to our local community:

- Alcohol and Substance misuse
- Knife crime.
- Signposting to COMPASS
- Sexual health and the C-Card initiative
- Operation Encompass

Alcohol and substance misuse

Unfortunately, the use of both legal and illegal drugs by teenagers is a national issue. We are also aware of concerns about alcohol and substance misuse without our local community.

Teenagers are likely to experiment, test boundaries and take risks. Smoking, drinking and trying drugs are some of the most common ways in which many young people do this.

Substance misuse is also one of the most common risks to a young person's health and development. All drugs have the potential to cause harm, some can be addictive, and using different drugs in combination with one another can increase the risks of harm to a young person. Legal drugs such as alcohol and tobacco can be very addictive. Illegal drugs include cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy and heroin.

There are things you can do as a parent to help your child develop a healthy and informed relationship with alcohol and drugs. If you think your child may be using alcohol or drugs to help them cope with difficult feelings or mental health issues you should make an appointment to speak to your GP for professional advice.

Further advice and guidance for parents can be found here:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/a-z-guide/drugs-and-alcohol/>



Compass is a charity providing health and wellbeing services, helping people unleash their unique potential and live healthier, safer and more fulfilling lives. They complete specific work with young people, offering confidential advice and guidance to them about their own alcohol or substance misuse. They also offer confidential advice to young people if they have concerns about alcohol or substance misuse by their friends or family.

Further information can be found on their web page below:

<https://www.compass-uk.org/services/warwickshire-cypdas/>

Knife crime

#knifefree

#knifefree is a scheme that focuses on educating young people on the dangers of knife crime and the risks that emerge from carrying a knife on their person. There can be feelings of pressure to carry a knife and the #knifefree website offers clear helpful steps for young people to respond to this pressure. It is important that young people remember, that regardless of the stories in the news, 99% of young people are #knifefree .

Further information can be found on the web address below:

<https://www.knifefree.co.uk/worried-young-person/>

<https://www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/our-news/new-ccard-service-for-young-people-in-north-warwickshire--1113/>

Sexual health and the C-Card initiative



The C-card scheme is a new service for young people and adults within the North-Warwickshire area.

The scheme offers young people and adults, aged 13 – 25 years old who live in Atherstone, Nuneaton, or North Warwickshire, the opportunity to get free condoms in order to help them to maintain good sexual health.

Hartshill School is proud to say that we have C-Card trained staff. Please contact our safeguarding team in the school if you would like further information.



From the beginning of the academic year 2019/20, the school had signed up to the jointly run operation Operation Encompass in partnership with Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police. Many other schools in Warwickshire are also participating in the scheme.

Operation Encompass is a way of working, initially developed in south-west England, which is already operating successfully in a number of other Local Authority areas. Its objective is to help schools provide support to children who are affected by incidents of domestic violence and abuse.

There is a great deal of research evidence that suggests children can suffer significant physical and/or emotional harm if they are present, witness or are directly involved in incidents of domestic violence and abuse.

The Operation Encompass process means that after any incident of domestic violence or abuse attended by the Police, the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Safeguarding Officer at the school attended by any child in the household will receive a confidential and secure Email on the morning of the next school day.

The Email will only inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Safeguarding Officer that the Police have attended an incident and will request that the school is mindful of that in their care and responses to the child throughout the school day. The school will not be informed about the specific details of the incident. The only exception would be when Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police deem the incident to be a child protection matter that requires further investigation. Information would then be shared with the school as part of Warwickshire County Council's child protection checks and investigation. This is already current practice and will not be changed by Operation Encompass.

The Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead have entered into a formal agreement with Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police to use the information shared to make sure that the right support is available for children who are impacted by domestic violence or abuse. This means that the school will also be in a position to offer parents and carers support as appropriate.

Mr A Ward

Vice Principal