

Safeguarding Newsletter

October 2022

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. That is the mantra that we have at Two Rivers High School and everyone has a good level of knowledge and understanding regarding this important topic. **We keep the child in focus at all times.**

The safeguarding team currently comprises of: Derek Tuck and Heather Barnby (Designated Safeguarding Leads, DSL), and Gail Brindley and Yvonne Edwards (Deputy DSL). The link Governor is Jane Oberg.



Should a member of staff be concerned relating to a specific child or incident, they will complete a record on an online portal: MyConcern. This is immediately highlighted to the safeguarding team who will then act in what they believe to be the best interests of the child. This is likely to involve speaking to the student but may also mean that parents receive a call to communicate any concerns or highlight something that has happened. We recognise that sometimes the news may come as a shock or surprise, but it is important that we deliver this information. Sometimes we will also seek advice from either the Education Safeguarding Advice Service or from the Local Support Team. If there is a need to contact parents, it may be that we need to pass on advice or request that you gain some support from an external agency or a medical professional. At no time do we ever judge. Please also be assured that the information is kept confidential.

In certain situations, we may also need to escalate the situation to First Response. The team we contact will directly advise us regarding next steps. Should we disagree with their advice, there is an escalation process that we can use, although that is rarely the case.

The other service that we have in school is an online monitoring service. This system works on all school devices. For any students who use school laptops at home, it is important that the student and you also appreciate that any use at home will also be monitored when the laptop is brought back into school. To avoid conversations that students may find tricky, please ensure that the school laptop is used for school purposes only and please remember that the laptop is the responsibility of the allocated pupil. It is strongly advised to avoid allowing others to use the laptop at home. The data captured includes any internet site used, anything that is searched for, pictures, and anything that is typed – this is even if it is NOT saved or it is deleted. Anything that is considered not appropriate or could be a potential safeguarding concern will be identified and reported to the safeguarding team.

Staff Training:

All staff attend a Level 1 course every 3 years, with regular updates to ensure that best practice is adhered to. The statutory guidance as set out by the government, and updated each year in the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' guidance has increased the expectations for staff. The safeguarding team provide updates for staff regarding knowledge of the key areas and topics. Staff knowledge is also audited, with any gaps or misconceptions addressed.

All the safeguarding team are trained to Level 4, with additional training every 2 years.

Student 'Training':

Two Rivers High School has a thorough PSHE programme which includes relationships and sex education, and online safety. We also promote key topics, including safeguarding areas throughout the year. Specific intervention in response to situations that arise within the school or local or national community will also be addressed, which may involve the use of external agencies.

What can parents do to support?

Should you believe there to be an urgent safeguarding concern regarding a student at Two Rivers High School, the best course of action would be to contact first response.

First Response for Staffordshire can be contacted on: 0800 1313 126. They are open 08:30-17:00 Mon – Thurs, 08:30-16:30 Fri and will want to know your details, details of the person of concern and details of the concern.

First Response for Derbyshire can be contacted on: 01629 533190 or 08456 058058.

Alternatively, you can contact the school and speak to one of the safeguarding team (Derek or Heather). We would rather know and be able to support. Please know that where we can, we avoid sharing who has passed on the concern. Parents are often best placed to know about concerns, perhaps from conversations had over the dinner table with your own child who is expressing concern relating to a friend. For example, passing on information that a child is self-harming, may mean that appropriate support can be provided and prevent the issue from escalating.