

Safeguarding Newsletter

Term 3 2024



Welcome!

Welcome to Witham St Hughs Academy's Safeguarding Newsletter. Keeping children safe is of course, our key priority here at school. Safeguarding takes many forms including: Protecting children from harm; preventing impairment of children's health and development; enabling safe and effective parenting and giving children equal opportunities in life. We do many things every day in school to ensure pupils are safe including: ensuring all staff are trained in safeguarding; having clear policies and procedures in place to keep children safe; monitoring pupil attendance; ensuring a safe and healthy site; ensuring the behaviour of pupils is in line with the Academy behaviour policy and using our curriculum to teach children about risk taking, diversity, healthy lifestyles, managing relationships, online safety and much more. Our safeguarding policy is always available to view via our website.



Focus on: Smart Watches

January may be a time where parents need to get to grips with some new devices following the festive season! If your child now has a smart watch, it is worth understanding the safeguarding risks associated with these before allowing them to be used by a child.

At our Academy, smart watches are not permitted to be worn due to the safeguarding risk to both adults and children that these pose. Many of these devices can make calls, take photographs and record video. These are not safe functions for children to have access to within school and do not keep staff members, themselves or their peers safe from harm.

This link shares some good advice with parents and carers about smart watch set up, parental controls, notifications and boundaries. This should be useful information if your child has access to a smartwatch to wear outside of school hours as the safeguarding concerns with these devices still remain outside of school.

https://parentzone.org.uk/article/smartwatches-and-fitness-trackers



Focus on: Domestic Abuse

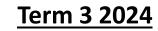
Domestic abuse refers to any instance of threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional) that occurs between individuals who are or were intimate partners or family members. It involves the misuse of power and control by one individual over another and constitutes a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. Typically, domestic abuse tends to escalate in both frequency and intensity over time.

Domestic Abuse can include:

- Threats of physical violence, even if physical force is not used
- Physical violence, such as shoving, hitting, kicking, head-butting, burning, suffocation, strangulation, or the use of objects/weapons
- Forced sexual activity
- Mental, emotional, and psychological cruelty, including name-calling, isolation from friends and family, deprivation of income, preventing a person from leaving the home, and damaging personal property or pets
- Harassment and stalking
- Using and abusing children in various ways to frighten or force compliance
- Forced marriage
- Female genital mutilation and so-called honourbased violence
- Coercive and controlling behaviour by an intimate partner or within the family

Domestic abuse is never ok, and there are lots of ways to reach out for support - see the additional leaflet attached to this newsletter for more details.

Safeguarding Newsletter





Who can help?

Richard Stock,

any time.

Witham St Hughs Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Useful phone numbers

Social Services: 01522 782111 Every school has a 'Designated Safeguarding ChildLine: 0800 1111 Lead'. At Witham St Hughs Academy, these are: Lincolnshire Prevent Team: 020 7340 7264 Emily Broadley. Hannah Young Carers Helpline: 01522 553275 Younger, Michelle Dexter and Steve Ross. Our NSPCC whistle blowing helpline: 08088 005000 safeguarding governor is Joanne Brown. If you FGM helpline: 08000 283550 have any concerns in relation to a safeguarding, Samaritans: 01522 528282 please feel free to speak to a safeguarding lead at Family Services Directory: 0800 195 1635

Online Safety: Managing Screen Time

Current research shows that 99% of current children will own a smartphone before they reach the age of 18! With phones and other devices offering an increasing number of ways to pass the time, it can prove difficult for young people to set them aside. As a gateway to messaging services, games, television, music and more, digital devices can become borderline indispensable items in a young person's life.

Studies have shown, however, that managing a child's screen time can development. National Online Safety have developed a #WakeUpWednesday guide to provide parents and carers with some simple but effective tips to help bring your family's screen time down to a healthier level. while suggesting alternative activities that are far less reliant on technology.

This guide has been uploaded to the 'Safeguarding' page on our website to be viewed in full:

https://withamsthughsacademy.co.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2024/01/managingscreen-time.pdf





THIS LEAFLET CONTAINS INFORMATION ON DOMESTIC ABUSE AND HOW EDAN LINCS DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE CAN HELP

Ending Domestic Abuse Now in Lincolnshire

REFUGE

Domestic abuse refuges provide a safe and secure environment for individuals and families fleeing abusive situations. Refuge accommodation offers a safe breathing space where you can access support to make future decisions free from pressure and fear. It is a place where you can rediscover your self-esteem and independence and begin to heal and recover from the trauma of abuse. We can assist individuals and families who need to escape domestic abuse by providing support in accessing refuge accommodation throughout the UK.



LDASS offers specialist support and assistance to individuals and families in Lincolnshire who are experiencing domestic abuse. If you or someone you know is going through domestic abuse, we're here to help!

Digitally based universal offer of support. Our universal offer of support is self-serve in nature and provides online access to information. advice, and guidance on domestic abuse for victims, residents and professionals in Lincolnshire.

Visit: www.ldass.org.uk for further information.

Specialist intervention and support around domestic abuse can vary but may include:

- Safety planning
- 1:1 practical/emotional support
- and crisis intervention Family support and direct support for children
- Support in accessing legal advice and other services
- Support in Court to obtain legal orders estic abuse related)
- Courses/group support designed for survivors.

Delivered by EDAN Lincs

Family Focus - Holistic family approach We offer family focus sessions which aim to rebuild the bonds within the family unit, and to strengthen the relationship which may have broken down due to the domestic abuse.

Targeted children's support

We provide a therapeutic approach to children and young people who are identified as most in need, typically through direct 1:1 support. Our focus is on helping children and young people overcome the effects, impacts, and experiences of domestic abuse.

Outreach Engagement team

- Provides proactive early interventions targeting communities and individuals who face barriers to accessing domestic abuse support services. Increasing community awareness of domestic abuse including support through training and consultancy
- Development of independently run Survivor Support Networks to support victims at a local level
- Recruitment of Domestic Abuse Champions to raise awareness and identify signs of domestic abuse within their communities and signpost victims to appropriate support

WHAT IS DOMESTIC ABUSE?

Domestic abuse refers to any instance of threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional) that occurs between individuals who are or were intimate partners or family members. It involves the misuse of power and control by one individual over another and constitutes a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. Typically, domestic abuse tends to escalate in both frequency and intensity over time.

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Ending Domestic Al Now in Lincolnshire

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WHO IS AFFECTED?

- 1 in 4 women will experience domestic abuse during their lifetime.
- 1 in 6 men will experience domestic abuse during their lifetime.
- 1 in 4 individuals in same-sex relationships will experience domestic abuse during their lifetime.
- On average, one incident of domestic abuse is reported to the police every minute.
- Domestic abuse accounts for 17% of all violent crimes in the UK.
- Domestic abuse can lead to depression, anxiety, serious injury, and in extreme cases, death.
- Approximately 750,000 children witness domestic abuse every year.
- Every week, two women in the UK die from injuries related to domestic abuse.