



Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to update you on our approach to safeguarding, and to keep you up to date with topics that have been discussed with students this half term, as well as other information linked to the safety and wellbeing of our students.

- **Designated Safeguarding Leads**

- The following staff lead the safeguarding in school and are a point of contact for staff, students and parents / carers who wish to raise concerns
- Mr David Shield - Designated Safeguarding lead
- Mr Richard Lennox - Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead
- Mrs Catherine Lennox - Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead
- Mrs Joanne Cervantes - Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead

In addition, Heads of House and the director of Sixth form are also trained in this area, and can be contacted via the email links at the bottom of this letter.

- **Knife crime**

With the sad and shocking news of the death of another child in our region, it is essential that schools, parents and carers work together to keep children safe. The Ben Kinsella Trust has published a guide to knife crime that I would encourage you to read.

https://www.kscmp.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/136513/A-guide-to-Knife-Harm.pdf

- **Mental health - self harm**

Mental health is a significant issue for a number of young people in our community. As a result some feel the need to self harm. This is a complex and difficult to understand topic. Young minds have an a-z guide of mental health, and includes an informative section on self harm.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/self-harm/>

- **eSafety**

As mentioned in previous letters, as a school, we regularly have to deal with issues around social media, and misuse of communications, especially mobile phones. We teach students the importance of using these systems sensibly and cautiously.

- Virgin media have produced a useful website that gives information on how to support your child to stay safe online.

<https://www.virginmedia.com/blog/online-safety/childrens-internet-safety-test/>



- Premier Education has a useful Parent’s Guide to Mobile Phone Health & Safety for Kids
<https://www.premier-education.com/news/the-parents-guide-to-mobile-phone-health-safety-for-kids>
- Internet Matters has clear guides linked to the age of children
<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/>

Social media is an area that can cause issues when misused. The age limit for these sites is usually 13, although we see lots of younger children accessing them. More information on the age restrictions and how to stay safe can be found on the safer internet website

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/age-restrictions-on-social-media-services>

- **#NEVEROK**

At school we have our own #NEVEROK campaign to support pupils with instances of bullying and discrimination. You can find more information on our school website.

<https://www.stthomasmore.org.uk/students/key-information/neverok/>

Anyone student who feels they are being victimised in line with the characteristics should report it to their tutor or head of house or via email: neverok@stthomasmore.org.uk

Safeguarding and child protection remain central to our daily practices, and we value the support you provide as parents / carers and working with us to keep children safe.

If you have any concerns, please contact the school through via email address below

Your sincerely

Mr D Shield
Deputy Headteacher

St Bernadette	St Catherine Laboure	St John Fisher	St Therese	Sixth Form
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