

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Spring Term 1 2023



Welcome...

To our first newsletter of 2023 in which we hope to provide advice and updates on all safeguarding matters to support keeping our whole community safe.

How to keep yourself and others safe

As part of Keeping Children in Safe in Education (KCSIE), all schools are required to promote children's welfare and stop concerns from escalating. To help us do this, it is essential that students have an awareness of how to keep themselves safe and how to report any concerns. As part of our Planned Assembly Programme this term we have produced Safeguarding Assemblies for all Key Stages. These have focused on teaching students how to keep themselves and others safe by being able to recognise what abuse or exploitation might look like, and have been in addition to our PSHE lessons.

Child abuse occurs when a child is intentionally harmed by an adult or another child. This can be over a period of time or a one-off incident. It can be physical, sexual or emotional abuse (and occur in person or online) or take the form of neglect.

Domestic Violence and Operation Encompass.

KCSIE 2022 recognises that children are likely to experience a short- and long-term detrimental impact on their health, wellbeing or ability to learn if they are experiencing Domestic Violence at home OR within an intimate relationship. The aim of Operation Encompass is to ensure that all children experiencing domestic abuse receive timely support in their school no matter where they live in the world. If you have concerns regarding your child or another child then please do not hesitate to contact their Head of Year, the safeguarding leadership team, Operation Encompass or the police on 101/999. <https://www.operationencompass.org>

County Lines. This is when urban gangs coerce vulnerable people, in particular children and young people, into storing and/or transporting drugs or money. This can happen anywhere in the UK, is illegal and a form of child abuse.

What might it look like if someone is trying to harm a child?

- If someone is pretending to be someone they're not, for example, pretending to be the same age as a child during online communications
- buying unexpected gifts for a young person
- giving a child unsolicited attention
- using their professional position or reputation to gain trust or impress
- taking the child on unexpected trips or outings

What might child-on-child abuse look like?

- Bullying for any reason including cyberbullying
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers
- Any form of physical abuse
- Any form of sexual violence
- Sexual harassment including sexual comments or jokes, sharing of nude / semi-nude images or videos (known as 'sexting')
- 'Upskirting' which is now a criminal offence due to the distress and humiliation caused to the victim
- Initiation / hazing type violence and rituals

Source NSPCC

Safeguarding at TGGs

Keeping your child safe is paramount to all staff at TGGs. If you have any information that will enable us to support your child more effectively then please do not hesitate to contact their Head of Year or a member of the safeguarding leadership team. We have many links to external agencies who can give your child and family support.



We use CPOMS to securely communicate and store all safeguarding concerns.

Reminders for online safety

Have you got some new devices in the house after the holiday period?

For many of us, we see our online lives and offline lives as different, but children are growing up with technology and the internet and, for them, there isn't a difference; online life and offline life is just life. Although technology can move at an extraordinarily fast pace, it is crucial that you ensure that your child's devices have the correct settings, that you have parental guidance applications linked to them and that you have an open and honest relationship with your child about their use of social media.

It is very important that they do not take their phones to their bedrooms – the distraction of such devices can stop students from getting some well-deserved rest.

Online safety alert—"The Game" on Roblox

'The Game' is a list of self-harming actions for children and young people to complete, often in view of their family and friends. It is allegedly shared via Word document on Roblox and Snapchat. According to the document, the 'normal' age range to join in this behaviour is "10-15 years old". Online experts at Ineqe have investigated concerns but have not been able to substantiate reports on the validity of this so-called 'game' or the claim that children and young people are sharing it. Worryingly Ineqe (Safeguarding Group for the safer use of innovative technology) also feature a news article about a 12-year-old dying in the USA when involved in a "death game" or "blackout challenge" circulated on Tik Tok. A tragic reminder that young people need to learn to be safe online.

Source Torbay Education Safeguarding Service (TESS).



How your child can get help

Speak to their trusted adult at school

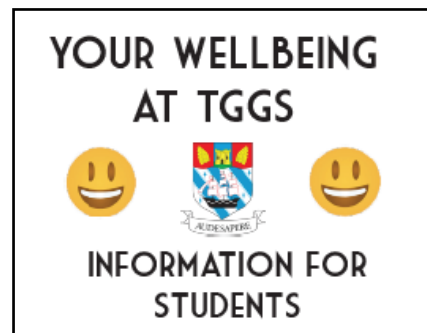
Record their concerns via the reporting platform at TGGs

Speak to an advisor through Childline 0800 1111

Report abuse directly to the police (999/101)

Report online issues through CEOPs (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre)

Every student at TGGs has a Wellbeing card which outlines what they should do if they have any worries or concerns. This card also lists what online support is available to them and a space to record their trusted adult(s) in school. Students across all year groups designed this card with Mrs Wilkinson.



Reminders and changes to our Safeguarding Leadership Team at TGGs



Helen Wilkinson is the Designated Safeguarding Lead



Anita Saunders is one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads



Lisa Neill is one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads



Debra Vanes now joins us as one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads



Sophie Cross is currently off on maternity leave. A warm welcome to baby Rupert!

We thank you for your ongoing support.

Please contact us at safeguarding@tggsacademy.org if you are concerned about your own child or another child at Torquay Girls' Grammar School