

# RIVERMEAD INCLUSIVE TRUST

## PARENTS AND CARERS SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021



inspiring the journey for  
independence together

### Welcome from the Team

The Rivermead Inclusive Trust Team are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in our community. keeping our young people safe. We work with pupils, parents, carers and community partners to support them with the ever-increasing range of new and unique challenges that we all face in today's world.



We will be sending out a safeguarding newsletter each term to keep you up to date with current safeguarding issues both locally and nationally.



## TRUST SAFEGUARDING TEAM

“Protecting those at risk of harm; promoting the welfare of all”

Safeguarding is the golden thread running through everything we do at Rivermead Inclusive Trust. Every child and young person deserve to be kept safe and we ensure this is the case through rigorous training, procedures and support systems. The team of Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies are dedicated to ensuring that there is a culture of listening to children and that safeguarding has a consistent and visible presence in our schools.

The Trust is on hand to offer support, advice and supervision to schools within the Trust and the safeguarding team update their own knowledge regularly by sharing expertise.

The centralised oversight of safeguarding practice across all sites enables us to ensure that staff deliver an informed, efficient, consistent and effective service in accordance with the statutory guidance when faced with addressing a safeguarding concern. The rigour of our quality assurance process and communications enable us to continuously monitor our strengths and areas requiring ongoing development. Continued professional development for all safeguarding personnel is also encouraged and supported by the Trust, to ensure that we continue to cultivate focused and specialist knowledge, to assist us with maintaining best practice and to evolve with the times to meet the complex needs we are faced with on a daily basis.

Kerri Edge

Ellie Quare

Executive Trust Safeguarding Lead  
Director of School Improvement

Trust Safeguarding Lead  
Deputy Headteacher Rivermead School



|                                                                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Safeguarding Trustee</b>                                                        | <b>Jenny Dunster</b> |
| <b>Safeguarding Governor<br/>Rivermead School, RRR and Post 16<br/>Provisions</b>  | <b>David Hopkins</b> |
| <b>Safeguarding Governor<br/>Ho St Werburgh Primary and Marlborough<br/>Centre</b> | <b>David Hopkins</b> |
| <b>Safeguarding Governor<br/>Walderslade Primary</b>                               | <b>Karen Dorrell</b> |

## MEET THE SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING TEAMS

Each Trust school has a dedicated team of Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Teams who can help families, children and young people to access support and specialist services. Please contact them if you have any worries, concerns around safeguarding or ideas to improve safety within the school and community.



**OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM**

**Rivermead**

Mrs. Akande  
Headteacher

Mrs. Quare  
Deputy Headteacher

Mr. M. Nolan  
AHT Teaching & Learning

Mrs. Ojoalope  
Welfare Lead

Mrs. Burrows  
Pastoral Support

Mrs. Hayhoe-Heads  
SENCO

Miss. King  
Pastoral Support

Mr. Gallacher  
Behaviour Lead

Ms. Baker  
ROCC

Mr. Chaplin  
Pathways Support

Your Safety is important to us and we are here to help  
We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the young people in our school



**OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM**

**RIVERMEAD ROUTES  
Reintegration**

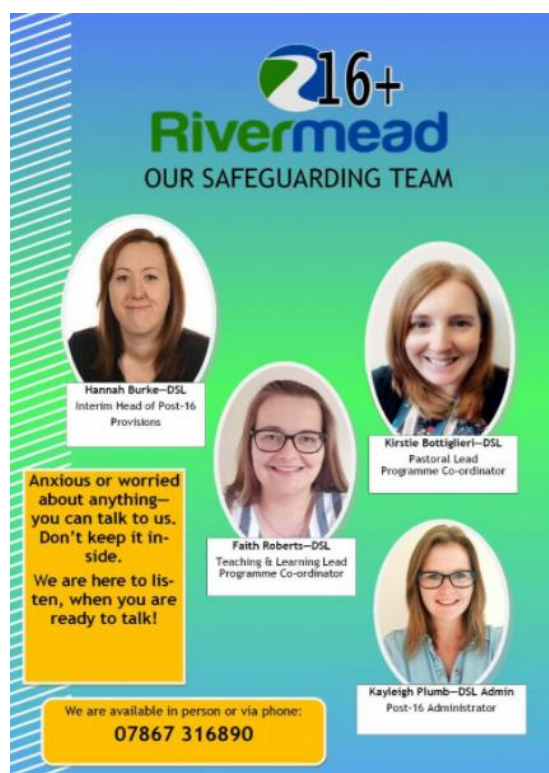
Mrs W. Etches  
Pastoral & Transition Facilitator

Mrs R. Kennedy  
Assistant Headteacher

Ms S. Campbell  
Head of Provision

Mr M. Malik  
Deputy Head of Provision

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**16+ Rivermead**

**OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM**

Hannah Burke-DSL  
Interim Head of Post-16 Provisions

Kirstie Bottiglieri-DSL  
Pastoral Lead Programme Co-ordinator

Faith Roberts-DSL  
Teaching & Learning Lead Programme Co-ordinator

Kayleigh Plumb-DSL Admin  
Post-16 Administrator

Anxious or worried about anything—you can talk to us. Don't keep it inside. We are here to listen, when you are ready to talk!

We are available in person or via phone:  
**07867 316890**



**WALDESLADE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Mrs Rowley-Jones  
Head Teacher

Mrs Sawyer  
SENCO

Miss Martin  
Deputy Head

Mrs Bridger  
Family Liaison Officer

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**Our Safeguarding Team**

**HOO ST WERBURGH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF AWARE OF WHO YOUR DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS ARE AT HOO ST WERBURGH PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Mrs Brown**  
Deputy Head  
TEL: 07540767424



**Mrs Pace**  
Pastoral Manager  
**Designated Safeguarding Lead**  
EXT 8077



**Mrs Poole**  
Head Teacher  
Deputy DSL  
EXT 8044



**Mr McLean**  
Interim Head  
Deputy DSL  
EXT 8094

**Worried About a Child?**

If you are worried about a child and the above safeguarding leads are unavailable, please follow the instructions below:



**Mrs Gallacher**  
SENDCo  
Deputy DSL  
EXT 8090

**Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS)**

Telephone: **01634 334466**

24-hour emergency number: **03000 419191**

Fax: 01634 333188

**Alternative telephone numbers if you have concerns about a child.**

NSPCC: 08008005000

Child Line: 08001111

Medway Police: 01622 690690

Non-emergency number: 101/999





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**Hoo St Werburgh Primary School & Marlborough Centre**

**OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM**

Do you have any concerns? If you do, speak to any of our safeguarding team



**Mrs. Kelly Speller**  
SENCO / FLO  
**Designated Safeguarding Lead**  
Ext 8045



**Mrs. Debbie Amato**  
Head of Provision  
**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead**  
Ext 8082



**Mrs. Louise Kennett**  
Deputy Head of Provision  
**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead**  
Ext 8093



**Ms. Sarah Negus**  
Assistant Head of Provision  
**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead**  
Whale Class

## Worried about a child or young person in the holidays?



Information, help, support and advice if you are worried about a child in Medway.

If you have concerns that a child or young person living in Medway is suffering from harm please phone 01634 334 466 or the 24-hour emergency number 03000 419 191

Medway Children's Safeguarding Partnership <https://www.medwayscp.org.uk/mscb/>

If you have concerns about a child you can also phone:

NSPCC on 0808 800 5000

Child Line on 0800 1111

Medway Police on 0162 2690 690



## SAFEGUARDING IN THE NEWS

### Sexual Harassment - Everyone's Invited Website

In the last number of weeks, Medway Safeguarding Board, Kent Police and Schools have been monitoring the situation. No Medway schools have been referenced but the website highlights the social, cultural and educational aspects of inappropriate and abusive sexual behaviour that need to be addressed

All Rivermead Inclusive Trust Schools have clear safeguarding policies and reporting procedures to keep our young people safe. These can be found on the individual school websites. We employ a zero-tolerance approach to sexist and other harmful or offensive behaviour. We continue to undertake work with our pupils to ensure they know where to seek support both in school and outside of the school environment.

#### National Response - The Department for Education

The DfE have announced an Ofsted Review. Ofsted, working with representatives from social care, police, victim support groups, school and college leaders and the Independent Schools Council., will undertake an immediate review of safeguarding policies in state and independent schools. The review, which will conclude by the end of May 2021, will look at the extent and the severity of the issue and ensure schools have appropriate processes in place to allow pupils to report concerns freely, knowing these will be taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately. It will make sure there is sufficient guidance on how schools should deal with sexual harassment and violence allegations, and whether the current inspection regimes in both state and private schools are strong enough to address concerns and promote the welfare of children.



#### Dedicated NSPCC Helpline

The Department for Education has commissioned the NSPCC to establish a dedicated independent helpline for people who have experienced abuse in education.

The helpline went live on 1 April, and will provide both children and adults who have experienced sexual abuse in schools with support and advice, including onward action such as contacting the police if they wish to. The helpline will also provide support to parents and professionals. Anyone who gets in touch through this dedicated helpline will also be signposted to other relevant support services available, including Childline, which provides ongoing support and counselling to children and young people.

The dedicated and confidential NSPCC helpline – Report Abuse in Education can be reached on 0800 136 663 or by email at [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk).

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk:sexual-abuse-victims-schools-helpline>

## Teenage Relationship Abuse

Teenage relationship abuse in teenage relationships is when a teen feels scared or controlled by the person they are with. They may be confused because it feels like a loving relationship but often only feels this way when the teen behaves in a certain way. This can happen at any age, regardless of gender. There are common signs of teenage relationship abuse.

Emotional abuse: controlling behaviour, like telling someone where they can go and what they can wear

Online abuse: threatening to post personal pictures or information about them

Controlling someone's finances: withholding money or stopping someone going to work

Snooping: reading emails, text messages or letters

Sexual abuse: making someone do something sexual when they don't want to

Physical abuse: violence towards someone, such as kicking, punching, hitting  
Teens do not have to be living with someone for an unhealthy relationship to develop.

Some young people experience relationship abuse while living with their parents or carers. It can happen in any relationship and can continue once the relationship is over. Direct your child to age-appropriate information about relationships and sex: It is natural for young people to start exploring their sexual feelings online and adolescents are more inclined to take risks. It is important to understand this and to talk to your child in a positive, encouraging and safe way. Useful websites:

[Brook – Healthy lives for young people](#)

[Sex & Relationships - The Mix](#)

## Online Sexual Harassment and Unsafe Relationships

[Think You Know](#) is a really useful online education programme which aims to empower children and young people to be better able to spot things online which may be harmful and how to tell someone about it.

It provides help and advice on lots of issues including:

What to do if you are worried about pictures of a friend online.

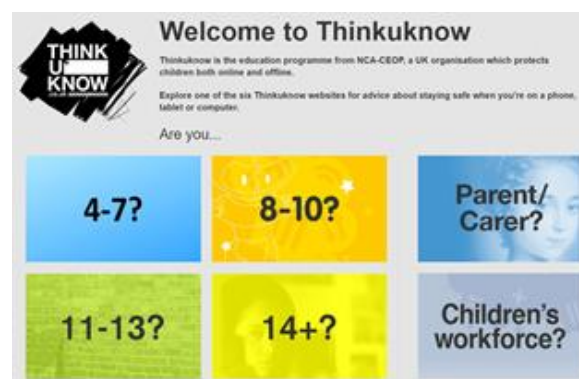
What to do if a friend is talking to a stranger online.

What to do if you or a friend receive rude images.

Online porn

Online sexual abuse and sexual grooming.

Live Streaming



## ONLINE SAFETY

All Children and Young People are vulnerable. They need to be supervised when using the internet and social media.

14:06 14 Apr

### Gang 'recruited teen in 80 minutes via Snapchat'

By Colin Campbell  
BBC South East Special Correspondent



A boy tells how he replied to an advert on Snapchat and was groomed to sell drugs at the age of 14.

[Read more >](#)

## Social Media Apps to be aware of

While you may regularly use Facebook or Twitter, feedback from our young people is that they do not. These are some of the most popular apps that students use with their peers and the associated risks. Advice taken from <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/safety-tools-social-networks-and-other-online-services>



### Instagram

A platform that emphasizes photo and video sharing via its mobile app. You can take, edit and publish visual content for your followers to interact with through likes, comments and shares. The default settings for Instagram is 'public' and unless your young person actively alters their settings, all the pictures they post will be available to anybody. This could lead to inappropriate images being available to anybody which, in turn, may lead to unwanted communication. It is understandable that our young people want to grow their list of 'followers', if their account is a public account it can quickly grow with unknown followers, some of whom might not have entirely innocent motives. This can lead them to be vulnerable to grooming, online bullying etc. In 2019 the NSPCC reported that Instagram was involved in more online grooming cases than any other online platform.



### Snapchat

A popular messaging app that lets users exchange pictures and videos that are meant to disappear after they are viewed. The default settings of 'My Friends' prevents users from sharing 'snaps' with others unknown to them. Unfortunately, the pull for our young people wanting to have more followers often results in them adjusting their settings and making their posts public. The transient nature of messages on Snapchat has made it a popular medium for abuse such as online bullying because abusers feel they will not be held accountable for messages posted once they are deleted. However, the police have the software to still access these messages and tell us that every post leaves a footprint. Snap Map allows young people to share their location (including effectively their home address). Users should ensure they reduce their vulnerability by hiding their locations by selecting 'ghost mode'.



### TikTok

A video sharing social networking service. The platform is used to make a variety of short-form videos lasting between 3 seconds to one minute. This app has been banned in many countries across the world as it raises concerns due to requests to access location, audio and camera recordings, and contacts. Although new users are prompted to examine their initial privacy settings this is left as an optional activity which many users decline. The default privacy setting on TikTok is a concern given that new accounts are automatically public so anybody can view videos, user's posts and can comment on them.



### YOLO

Stands for you only live once and is an anonymous question and answer app that is used within Snapchat. Users can post anonymous questions and comments on a Snapchat story and also attach an image. Minimum age is 17. This app works alongside Snapchat allowing users to ask questions anonymously. Such anonymity in apps has been dangerous in the past as they have led to bullying and hate crime.



For more information, on keeping your young people safe online, please visit the UK Safer Internet Centre - [www.saferinternet.org.uk](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

Although each social media platform has unique features and challenges, there are a number of underlying rules that you should try to reinforce with your young person at every opportunity:

**Check privacy settings** - take care with profile settings as even if an account is set to 'private'. The profile picture and bio is generally publicly available.

**Think before you post** - Remember that once something is posted to the Internet you lose control of it.

**Be suspicious** of people showing lots of attention or encouraging them to keep secrets.

**Be aware** that they can report concerns to their parents, a trusted member of staff at college or the organisations listed below:

**CEOP** – The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre is a branch of the police which helps young people who are being approached online for sex or are suffering from sexual abuse. This can be the most effective means for stopping grooming, sexual abuse & sexexploitation - [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

**Young Minds** – This is a charity which is committed to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people. It offers 24/7 access to trained volunteers with support from experienced clinical supervisors. It also provides a helpline for parents - [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

**Childline** – This is a free service which is able to support young people dealing with a range of problems including online safety issues. It offers a 24/7 service to children and young people who are struggling to deal with a situation and need support. For a young person who feels uncomfortable with talking directly to someone there is a one-to-one online chat service - [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

**Shout** - This organisation is the UK's first free 24/7 text service for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It is a place for people to go if they are struggling to cope and need immediate help - send a text to 85258

**Kooth** – This service provides free safe and anonymous online support for young people. Access to teams of counsellors who are experts in providing mental health support to young people - [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)



## GAMING

Video games are incredibly popular and during lockdown many families have found them a great way to entertain children and to enjoy family time playing together. The huge number of games available make it challenging to know which games are the most appropriate for your family. Help is available at <https://www.taminggaming.com/>

The database is a unique way to help parents and carers find suitable games for their children.

## LIVE STREAMING



Live streaming is now a very popular feature of many apps and platforms, all you need to livestream is an internet enabled device like a laptop or a smart phone. If your child enjoys livestreaming, you may want to read [what-is-live-streaming](#) to find out more about it and help your child have a positive online experience.

Over the past few months, many of you may have watched a livestream, or taken part in a video chat. Livestreaming can be a fun and enjoyable online activity for young people. If you want to know more about livestreaming, the risks and safe use, watch this short video: [Live Streaming Guide for Parents and Carers](#)

## CHILD FRIENDLY SEARCH ENGINES

Child friendly search engines help us to ensure that children are using the internet in a safe way. Kiddle.co is a visual search engine for children powered by Google which offers a safe web, image and video search. You can access it here <https://www.kiddle.co/>. You can also access further information on alternative search engines here: [www.educatorstechnology.com/2018/01/11-great-kids-safe-search-engines.html](http://www.educatorstechnology.com/2018/01/11-great-kids-safe-search-engines.html)



We need to be aware that those who wish children harm will find their way round the safeguards included in these search engines, so while these search engines may make searching safer for children they are not a replacement for online safety filters. UK Safer Internet Centre provides excellent independent advice on setting up internet filters at home.

**Please contact your school Safeguarding Team if you have concerns or need further advice/support.**