



Safeguarding Autumn Term 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

This is the first safeguarding letter for parent/carers for this academic year. I hope you will find it useful to have some key information highlighted to you with regards to safeguarding. As previously, this letter will follow the same format as earlier ones, focusing on two key topics and signposting you to additional documents and websites specific to these topics.

As a school we have a duty to safeguard students in our care and we take this responsibility seriously ensuring we are compliant with statutory guidance. We have a child protection policy in place that is reviewed annually and strict safeguarding procedures that staff must adhere to at all times. Staff receive regular training and updates around specific safeguarding issues throughout the year. When necessary we may need to report our concerns to MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) as part of these procedures to ensure our students are safe.

If you would like more information about our child protection policy this can be found on our school website and on the link below:

[THS-Safeguarding-and-child-protection-policy-Sept-23.pdf \(tiverton.devon.sch.uk\)](https://tiverton.devon.sch.uk/THS-Safeguarding-and-child-protection-policy-Sept-23.pdf)

Mental Health

Everyone has mental health and for the majority of us this remains good and does not require the intervention of additional services, however, for some of our students they may, at times, require some additional support to ensure they are mentally well and able to access education, social situations and wider opportunities. Understandably it can feel overwhelming for parent/carers when their child presents with mental health issues which may lead to school refusal, self-harm or suicidal thoughts/idolisations. Below are links to websites that can support both young people and parents giving helpful advice and tips to help manage these feelings as well as access to online counselling. We would also urge any concerned parents/carers to be linking with their GP who can also offer signposting and support.

[Home - Kooth](#)

[Home - Stop.Breathe.Think \(stopbreathethink.org.uk\)](https://stopbreathethink.org.uk)

[Shout - UK's 24/7 Crisis Text Service for Mental Health Support | Shout 85258 \(giveusashout.org\)](#)

[YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds](#)

[Charlie Waller Trust, mental health charity](#)

[Papyrus UK Suicide Prevention | Prevention of Young Suicide \(papyrus-uk.org\)](#)

Harmful Sexual Behaviours

Harmful sexual behaviour is a term used to describe sexualised behaviour that are outside what is safe for a young person's stage of development. It includes actions that can harm either the child or young person themselves or another person. It is extremely important that young people do not keep these concerns to themselves and that they seek the support of staff at school or their family in order for it to be dealt with appropriately. Whilst this can feel difficult and stressful for young people to do it is the only way in the longer term to make sure they receive the correct support. All year groups received a special assembly last

Tiverton High School

Headteacher: **Sammy Crook**
Deputy Headteacher: **Fay Crellen**
Deputy Headteacher: **Reg Gilbert**



week from Narrative Alchemy regarding sexualised behaviours to reinforce students learning in personal development around this subject and to encourage students not to be bystanders if they witness anything they feel uncomfortable with, as well as providing guidance and advice for support. Please find some links below to websites that can offer further support and guidance:

[Preventing harmful sexual behaviour in children - Stop It Now](#)
[Harmful Sexual Behaviour - Parents guide.pdf \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)
[Sexual harassment | Childline](#)

As always, we hope that none of our young people or their families feel they need to deal with any issues alone and encourage you to speak with your child's tutors, year team and the safeguarding team if you have any concerns

Best Wishes

Carrie Morrell

Carrie Morrell Designated Safeguarding Lead