

Safeguarding Autumn Term 2024

18th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is the first safeguarding letter for parents/carers of this academic year. I hope you find it useful to have some key information highlighted to you with regards to safeguarding. This letter will follow the same format as in previous years; 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) via their front door service, 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 the link below:

[THS-Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection-2024.pdf](#)

Early Help

Early help is a supportive service that can be offered by any professional that works with children and families that need some additional support. These can be initiated by professionals or can be requested via parent/carers to be initiated. Early help is an approach that brings services and professionals together to improve outcomes for families. Families do not have to have safeguarding concerns to have early help plans open, these can be for a range of reasons including SEND, attendance and referrals onto level 2/3 services that the early help team provides. As part of the early help process, consent will be gathered to store information and Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings will be established to look at support and identify strengths the families have. If you would like anymore information about early help please follow the link below:

[Early Help Information - Devon Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

Bolham Road, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6SQ

T: 01884 256655

E: admin@tiverton.devon.sch.uk

W: www.tiverton.devon.sch.uk

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Substance and Alcohol Misuse

The Christmas holidays are a time for celebration for lots of families but can also be a time of sorrow, where many support services are closed and additional stresses and triggers can lead to exasperating any existing issues, leading to increased substance or alcohol misuse. Alcohol or substance misuse is when someone's drinking or drug uses becomes problematic, harmful or dependent. This has an impact on any family members present in household including children. We also need to be mindful that when we are looking at substance and alcohol misuse we also need to be aware that this can also apply to some children and young people who may misuse these due to a range of contextual issues. Please find some links to websites below that can offer further support and guidance for both parents/carers and young people who may need some additional support:

[Alcohol and other drug misuse | Barnardo's](#)

[Honest information about drugs | FRANK](#)

[Home - Y-SMART](#)

[Together - Exeter - Waythrough](#)

[Alcohol Change UK charity: Alcohol harms. Time for change. | Alcohol Change UK](#)

If you have any concerns about a child's safety during the school holidays and need to contact The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) please call them on 0345 155 1071 or email mashsecure@devon.gov.uk. If they are at immediate risk of harm please call 999.

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 tutor, year team and the safeguarding team if you have any concerns

Best Wishes



Carrie Morrell

Designated Safeguarding Lead