

Princes Risborough School

Positive ♦ Responsible ♦ Successful

12 December 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to be writing to you with the first update of the school year regarding Safeguarding at PRS.

The role of The Safeguarding Team in school is to develop a *Culture of Safeguarding* which ensures that we provide a safe environment for pupils through robust safeguarding practices.

To this end, all staff at PRS attend safeguarding training at the start of the new school year (or on joining the school if this is not in September) and are trained to recognise signs of abuse and neglect and how to take positive action when required. In addition, we provide a rolling programme of information sharing throughout the school year to reflect the ever-changing face of safeguarding. Central to our training this year was information around 'upskirting' and the threat of 'serious violence' amongst our young people.

Our *Culture of Safeguarding* is centred around the following shared Core Values ;

- ***Every child has a voice***
- ***Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility***
- ***No concern is too small***
- ***All concerns are treated professionally and sympathetically***

I have recently led assemblies to all year groups to present our shared values of safeguarding and to talk more generally about the important role that all stakeholders have in safeguarding each other. I talked about what is meant by safeguarding, what a student should do if they have a safeguarding concern and how we are all responsible for supporting each other through our choice of language and behaviour. My challenge to students was to 'pay it forward' and act positively towards each other (by deed or by word) in order to encourage the next person to act positively towards someone else.

During the assemblies I also presented the Safeguarding Team. There are posters in every classroom and in communal areas of the school displaying the members of the team and I was pleased that in every assembly students were able to name the members of the team.

The Safeguarding Team consists of me as Lead Designated Safeguarding Lead (Lead DSL) supported by three fellow DSLs in Mrs Sue Hine (Pastoral Support Manager and Head of Year 9), Mrs Linda Williams (Learning Support Manager) and Miss Vicky Bennell (Pastoral Support Officer). All four members of the team are trained to the same standard meaning all of us are able to lead on safeguarding cases. Our Safeguarding Governor is Miss Emma Bell (gov_ebell@prsbucks.com).

Should you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of any young person I would encourage you to email The Safeguarding Team at childprotection@prsbucks.com This email address has also been shared with students for their use and will shortly appear on the safeguarding posters around school.

On the school website (www.princesrisborough.bucks.sch.uk) under the 'Our School' and

www.princesrisborough.bucks.sch.uk ♦ office@prsbucks.com



Mr S Baker
Headteacher

Merton Road
Princes Risborough
Buckinghamshire
HP27 0DR

Telephone
01844 345496



'Safeguarding Children' tabs (click on this [Link](#)) you will find further, important Safeguarding information including links to outside agencies.

For any parent or carer with concerns around the mental health and wellbeing of their child I would point you to the information on the school website under the 'Parents' and 'Mental Health' tabs (click on this [Link](#)). The Mental Health Booklet is a particularly useful resource.

Social Media continues to present challenges to society and whilst it can be an incredibly positive tool for us all it is clear that it can also cause emotional harm if used inappropriately. I would encourage you to closely monitor your child's use of Social Media and would recommend that you consider using one of the many monitoring tools that are available such as Gallery Guardian or ESET.

An ongoing concern for all schools is the prevalence of self-harm amongst our young people. The most recent Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children survey (an international survey of young people carried out every four years) found that 22% of 15 year olds in England had ever self-harmed and evidence suggests that self-harm rates are increasing amongst young girls and boys. For any parent or carer who would like information and support around self-harming I would recommend the following website www.minded.org.uk/

Four PRS colleagues have recently attended self-harm awareness training provided by CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service). Following this training we are now updating our self-harm protocols and procedures to continue to ensure that we take all reasonable steps to reduce the risk of self-harm but also to ensure that our response to a student who is self-harming is appropriate. There is no quick fix to a young person who is self-harming but, with the correct support from all stakeholders, the rate of self-harm can be reduced and young people can be supported to make safer choices.

Whilst writing I would like to take this opportunity to signpost a video which has been created by The Office of The Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) called 'Don't Disappear'.

'Don't Disappear' tells the story of Jamie and Emma; from the seemingly loving early stages of their relationship to the development of coercive and controlling behaviours such as jealousy and possessiveness, control, love bombing and isolation.

While anyone of any age can be a victim of coercive control it is important that this issue is understood by younger people who may have less relationship experience. The aim of the video is to raise awareness of the red flags – the early signs of coercive control which, at the time, may be missed or misinterpreted as acceptable behaviour in a relationship.

The video can be found at <https://youtu.be/d6rt8w5HBWw>

The support of all stakeholders is essential to ensuring the safeguarding of all of our young people and so I would encourage parents and carers to contact us with any concerns or questions no matter how small they may seem at the time. Please use the Safeguarding email address childprotection@prsbucks.com

Yours sincerely,



James Essex

Assistant Headteacher - Lead Designated Safeguarding Lead

