RIVERMEAD INCLUSIVE TRUST

PARENTS AND CARERS SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021



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.

MEET THE SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING TEAMS 21-22

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 via the school office if you have any worries, concerns around safeguarding or ideas to improve safety within the school and community.

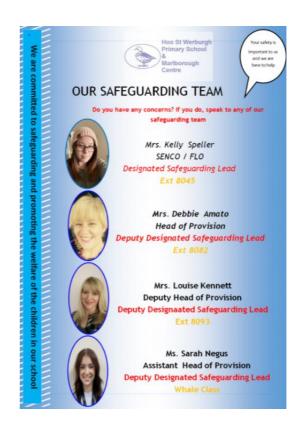












Worried about a child or young person?



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



RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION

RSE is a hot topic right now in primary and secondary education, and you might be asking yourself - what is the **meaning of RSE**?

RSE stands for "relationships and sex education" and as part of Relationships and Health Education, is a new approach to teaching children about relationships and health.

The Relationships Education, RSE, and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools. Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-sex-and-health-education-guides-for-schools

The new Relationships and Health Education curriculum is designed to:

- Help all children grow up healthy, happy and safe.
- Give all children the knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships.
- Support all children to manage the challenges and opportunities of modern Britain.
- Prepare all children for a successful adult lives.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

All primary school children will be required to learn about relationships and health. Relationships and Health Education comprises two distinct areas:

- Relationships
- Physical health and mental wellbeing

If you would like to know more please contact your child's school directly.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

All secondary pupils will be required to learn about relationships, sex and health. This comprises of the following key themes:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and Media
- Being Safe including physical health and mental well being
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

The PSHE team at Rivermead School will be holding termly virtual drop in sessions for parents and carers to share subject content and ideas for parents to use at home. Please speak to the office admin team if you are interested in attending.



SAFEGUARDING IN THE NEWS

E Scooter Safety

E-scooters are classed as Powered transporters. They are very appealing to young people especially, but are you aware of the law surrounding their use together with the risk of being prosecuted. Did you know?



- E-scooters are illegal for use in any public space unless rented as part of a government-approved
- Riding an e-scooter on the road is against the law as per the Road Traffic Act of 1988 and the Highway Act of 1835
- E-scooters are prohibited from being used on cycle tracks, cycle lanes on roads, or other spaces dedicated to pedal cycle use only
- Privately owned e-scooters can only be ridden on private land!

Please click link for all the important information you need.

Advice on e-scooter usage | Kent Police

EDIBLES: BE VIGILANT



What are edibles?

Edibles are food products that may contain cannabis. There are many forms of edibles, including sweets, gummies, and lollipops.

What are the worries?

Edibles take between 1-3 hours to have an effect because food is absorbed into the bloodstream through the liver. Because it takes longer, the person taking them may end up consuming larger amounts of the drug while thinking the drug is not working. As edibles may look like other products, there is also the risk someone may ingest them without realising they contain drugs - this could include other children in the home. Displayed side effects may include paranoia, panic attacks, nausea, impaired mobility, hyperactivity, elevated heart rate, hallucinations.

What can you do?

Monitoring food packaging/wrappers, looking for wording such as CBD or THC suggesting the items are cannabis oil infused. In an immediate medical emergency call 999. If you are made aware of any social media accounts advertising these items, please report information to the police, school, or Crime Stoppers

For support and information, you can go to Talk to Frank by clicking on the link below.

https://www.talktofrank.com/

DARK NIGHTS/STAY SAFE





Can you spot the child in each photo?

Please encourage your child to wear high vis clothing on dark nights.

https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/

The link above is a great place for road safety resources for all ages.



SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT SERVICES

NSPCC HELPLINE SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ABUSE 0800 136 663

This dedicated helpline provides support to both children and adults who have experienced sexual abuse in educational settings or has concerns about someone or the issues raised. Support and advice include how to contact the police and report crimes if they wish. The helpline will also provide support to parents too. More information is available at

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us//sexual-abuse-victims-schools-helpline/

NSPCC

COUNTY LINES SUPPORT

County lines a form of criminal exploitation where urban gangs persuade, coerce or force children and young people to store drugs and money and/or transport them to suburban areas, market towns and coastal towns (Home Office, 2018). It can happen in any part of the UK, it is against the law as well as being a form of child abuse.

Children and young people may be criminally exploited in multiple ways. Other forms of criminal exploitation include child sexual exploitation, trafficking, gang, and knife crime

https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/cl/county-lines/

https://www.safe4me.co.uk/supportservices/



ONLINE GROOMING

IWF safety campaign aims to help parents have conversations with their children about keeping their 'door' closed to child sexual abusers. The campaign includes a booklet for parents, explaining the risks, explaining why children are vulnerable, and suggests practical steps that parents can take. TALK to your child about online sexual abuse. Start the conversation - and listen to their concerns. AGREE ground rules about the way you use technology. LEARN about the platforms and apps your child loves. KNOW how to use tools, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.



https://talk.iwf.org.uk/

LGBTQ+ SUPPORT

Metro works collaboratively with staff, volunteers, users, partners and supporters to make a difference to people's lives.

They promote health and wellbeing through services to anyone who needs advice or is experiencing issues with their sexuality, gender, equality, diversity and identity.

Find out more

Website: Metro Phone: 0208 305 5000

The **BeYou** project helps to connect young people in Kent who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, nonbinary or are questioning their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

It is a safe, welcoming and non-judgemental space where people can meet, socialise, have fun and help and support each other.

Find out more. Website: BeYou project

THE VOICE OF THE CHILD: EMOJI SLANG

Do you know what your child is texting or receiving? The Urban Dictionary is a great place to check words that you are unfamiliar with: https://www.urbandictionary.com/



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