

Holmer C. E. Academy—Safeguarding Newsletter

Issue 4 - December 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to this month's edition of our parent safeguarding newsletter.

With the shorter days, dark evenings and sometimes mornings, I am sure everyone is looking forward to Christmas and the events that come with it. Whilst Christmas can be an exciting time, we know that for some it can also be difficult for many reasons, especially given the current economic situation. We are here to support any families who may find this time of year particularly difficult, so please do get in touch if you are worried. We can signpost to local services who may be able to help.

In the following pages you can find information about the pastoral support we can provide in school as well as the regular online safety section, tips for helping children stay safe while out and about in the dark and the Operation Encompass strategy that we are proud to be part of.

Any questions, please do ask.

Jayne Maund

Head Teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Spotlight on: Pastoral Support

Staff are all here to support the children in school and you as families. If there are any issues or concerns that cannot be solved by the class teacher, who should always be the first port of call, Mrs Anderson is our Pastoral Support and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

she works across the school supporting children and families and helping to reinforce and extend the links between home and school. Mrs Anderson's work ranges from working with individual children, supporting the running of social and nurture groups, to supporting parents with court cases and other legalities, to making referrals to school nursing or other support agencies and, perhaps most importantly, she makes a great cup of tea if you just need to talk to someone!

We recognise that everyone needs help at some points and by sharing any worries or concerns and asking for help and support, together we can work together to make things better.

Please look on the well being and pastoral support pages of the school website to see ways in which we can offer support.

[Well-Being and Pastoral Support | Holmer CofE Academy \(holmerceacademy.co.uk\)](https://holmerceacademy.co.uk)

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES & PHOTOS/VIDEOS OF THESE

Whilst we are more than happy for you to take photos and videos of your child's performance we ask that these photos and videos are NOT posted online. Not all parent's and carers consent to their child's image being shared. You could be inadvertently be placing other children at risk by sharing their image online.

The Safeguarding team.
If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the schools safe-guarding team



Jayne Maund Designated Safeguard Lead



Anna Keating Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Rachel Anderson Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Our school participates in a national scheme called 'Operation Encompass', which is a joint partnership between Police and schools. One of the principles of Operation Encompass is that all incidents of domestic abuse are shared with schools, not just those where an offence can be identified.

This system has been established to help schools provide in-house support to children who have been present at, exposed to or involved in any domestic abuse incident. We know that children can be significantly harmed physically and/or emotionally during these situations and that it negatively affects their learning and behaviour. Therefore, as part of the Operation Encompass procedure, and to help mitigate the resulting negative impact, the school receives a report the morning after a child has been witness to or involved in any reported domestic abuse incident.

We are then able to use this information to provide the right support to any child and their family as and when it is needed.

Online Safety

Pegi age-rating reminders:

Grand Theft Auto – 18 Call of Duty – 16 Fortnite – 12

We are aware of a number of children in school who are playing these games which are rated above the age range of primary education. Please be mindful of what children are exposed to on these platforms.

Useful online safety websites for parents:

National Online Safety – safety guides on ALL aspects of internet use <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

Internet Matters – wide range of online safety advice for parents to keep their children safe on -line. <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Useful contacts:

Young Minds: supporting children and young people's mental health

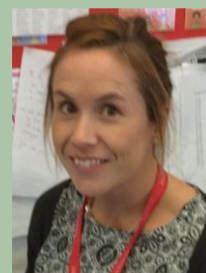
Mind: adult mental health support and information

Refuge: domestic abuse support

Saneline: Emotional Support: 07984 967 708 (leave name and number and someone will call you back)



Zoe Jackson
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Katie Thomas
Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

To speak to the team - [\(01432\) 260800](tel:01432260800)

To email the team
- cypd@herefordshire.gov.uk

Emergency Duty Team

[\(01905\) 768020](tel:01905768020)

(out of hours number for when MASH are unavailable)

Useful Safeguarding Acronyms and Vocabulary

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead

MASH: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

CP: Child Protection

ChiN: Child in Need

CEOP: Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre

KCSIE: Keeping Children Safe in Education

PREVENT: Part of the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn in to extremism

CAMHS: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

SEND: Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS

RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

EMPHASISE HOPE

MONITOR REACTIONS

CONSIDER YOUR OWN EMOTIONS

SET LIMITS

TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

FIND A BALANCE

BUILD RESILIENCE

IDENTIFY HELP

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.

Meet Our Expert



For more information on our business, call 1-800-762-2267. If you have a fax, call 1-800-762-2267. If you have a website, call 1-800-762-2267. If you have a website, call 1-800-762-2267.

 **National
Online
Safety®**
#WakeUpWednesday

Be Bright, Be Seen!

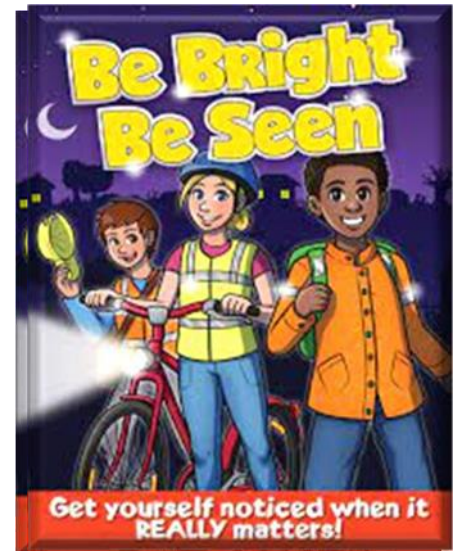
We are always mindful for the safety of our children near roads and conscious of how vulnerable they can be.

At this time of year, with reduced visibility for drivers your child is even more vulnerable near roads. With new bikes and scooters arriving at Christmas for some, the temptation to go out in the evening will be even stronger so I have included some safety tips below so that you can discuss with your child/ren how important it is to be visible when near roads.

These tips emphasize how wearing brightly coloured clothing shows up well in daylight but, as it gets dark, reflective clothing and accessories are far more effective in signaling pedestrians or cyclists to drivers.

For more information and activities to do with your child(ren) please visit:

<https://www.think.gov.uk/resource/be-bright-be-seen-game/>



5 top tips on how to
BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN

- 1** Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
- 2** If you're out and about when it's dark, wear reflective gear to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
- 3** Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip-on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.
- 4** If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
- 5** Of course, 'Being Bright' isn't the only way to stay safer. If you're out at night, choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and remember to always use the Green Cross Code.

For more road safety tips, games and videos, visit the Tales of the Road website at www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad

Be Bright, Be Seen

THINK

