

GAA Families' Safeguarding Newsletter

April 2023

Welcome to Great Academy Ashton's safeguarding newsletter for parents and carers. We send these out every half term and they will also be available on our website.

We hope you find it useful and welcome any feedback you might have.

IF YOU LIVE IN TAMESIDE: FREE Online courses for parents, grandparents, carers & teens – access via your mobile or any computer device

The Solihull Approach has a great range of courses to help you with your understanding of:

- Pregnancy, labour, birth and your baby
- Your child / Your child with additional needs
- Your teenager's brain
- Your relationships
- Your feelings (for teenagers only)



[Online Course for Parents](#) | [Solihull Approach](#) | [inourplace](#) Access code: **SUNFLOWER**

TikTok

You must be over 13 Years of TikTok.



60-minute screen time notification:

TikTok are introducing a 60-minute Screen time notification for teen accounts (accounts with users under 18 years of age). When the time limit is reached, the user will be asked to enter their passcode to continue watching.

Family Pairing: new features:

This allows you to link your own account to your child's account. TikTok have now added three new features:

- Custom daily screen time limits: this option includes choosing different time limits depending on the day of the week as well.
- Screen time dashboard: this provides a summary of time spent on the app, the number of times TikTok was opened, and a breakdown of total time spent during the day and night.
- Mute notifications: this setting will enable you to mute notifications at set times. Accounts aged 13-15 already do not receive push notifications from 9pm and for accounts aged 16-17, notifications are disabled from 10pm.

<https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-us/new-features-for-teens-and-families-on-tiktok-us>

Keeping children safe from sexual abuse

There are a wide range of organisations which offer advice and support to families and young people which we would recommend:

[Parents Protect](#) - Parents Protect helps parents and carers protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation by providing child safety resources.

[CEOP](#) – The Child Exploitation and Online Protection command (CEOP) is a law enforcement agency to help keep children and young people safe from sexual abuse and grooming online.

[Thinkuknow](#) - Provides information for parents and carers concerned about children sexual abuse, as well as age-appropriate online safety resources for children.

[Barnardo's](#) – Barnardo's supports children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse, to make them safe and help them recover.

[Stop Abuse Together](#) – This website contains information and links for anyone concerned about child sexual abuse.

[Marie Collins Foundation](#) – The Marie Collins Foundation is a charity that works directly with children, young people and families to enable their recovery following sexual abuse involving technology.

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has published extensive guidance on how to stay safe on the internet. They have advice for children, parents, and teachers.

[Childline](#) – Children and young people can contact Childline at any time day or night to speak to someone about their concerns.

TOGETHER

ACHIEVING

EXCELLENCE

RESPECT

GENUINE

TOGETHER

ACHIEVING

EXCELLENCE

RESPECT

GENUINE

GENUINE ★ RESPECT ★ EXCELLENCE ★ ACHIEVING ★ TOGETHER

Teen vaping on the rise

Recently, the rise of teen vaping has been highlighted by the BBC and The Guardian. It has been reported by schools that young people as young as ten have acquired illegal and unregulated vaping products, despite UK laws to prevent those under 18 from buying such Products.

Medical professionals and campaigners are worried about the lack of research regarding the effects of vaping on the long-term health of children and young people and are calling for tighter rules regarding the packaging and advertising of vapes.

You can learn more about vaping and young people with this factsheet from Action on Smoking and Health (ASH).

<https://ash.org.uk/resources/view/use-of-e-cigarettes-among-young-people-in-great-britain>



LGBTQ+ @GAA

Recent years have seen an increase in young people questioning their gender identity, making them more vulnerable to sexual harassment and bullying. The support of their education setting can make a significant difference to individuals facing prejudice and discrimination.

As a school we are proud to hold the Rainbow Flag Award and we support our learners by:

- flexibility around school uniforms;
- using preferred names/pronouns, including changing the register;
- clear anti-bullying policies and procedures;
- staff training on gender nonconformity language.

We also have an LGBTQ+ group that meets weekly.

You can learn more about how to create an inclusive environment that allows individuals who may be curious about, or questioning, their gender identity to feel safe and accepted with these resources from Mentally Healthy Schools.

[Resource library : Mentally Healthy Schools](#)



LGBTQ+
LUNCH
CLUB

MON & FRI
1:20 – 1:50pm
Aspire room



Reporting a safeguarding concern

If you are concerned about the welfare of a student please contact a member of GAA's safeguarding team:



Rachel Gill
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead (DSL)



Gill Baines
Senior Deputy
DSL



Rebecca Holroyd
Deputy DSL



Michelle Hughes
Assistant SL

via admin@gaa.org.uk or tel: 0161 241 9555

Thank you for reading.

Watch out for the safeguarding video clip we will be sending out in 2 weeks' time.