

The Wilnecote School Safeguarding Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of our Safeguarding Newsletter. Our aim of this edition is to provide you with the most up-to-date and relevant guidance on matters that we believe will be significant to you and your family. This edition talks our Zero Tolerance stance against discrimination, the negative impact of social media personalities and an update on PSHE and assemblies this half-term.

Zero Tolerance

This term we have launched our rebranded Zero Tolerance approach to discrimination with all students. During assemblies we discussed the 9 protected characteristics, which are Age, Disability, Gender reassignment, Marriage & Civil partnership, Race, Religion or Belief and Sex. These formed part of the Equality Act of 2010 which brought together various anti-discrimination laws into one single act, so any unlawful treatment (**discrimination, harassment or victimisation**) relating to one of the Equality Act protected characteristics.

It's important to make sure people are not treated unfairly due to a protected characteristics and to ensure that all professional communities are free from discrimination.

Why is this important in school?

- Creating an inclusive culture for all staff and students.
- Ensuring equal access to opportunities to enable students to fully participate in the learning process.
- Enabling all staff and students to develop to their full potential.
- Promote equality and tackle discrimination based on these characteristics.

Our Stance—We have Zero Tolerance to all discrimination in our school and all members of staff will challenge and sanction students that are showing discrimination. All staff will use the phrase, “We have Zero Tolerance against that...” and explain why to the student.

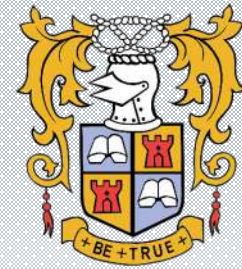
Staff then complete a Zero Tolerance form, once completed this must be passed to the relevant Pastoral Year Officer. The Pastoral Team will support the student(s) that were affected by discrimination, this will happen the following day, week and month. The team will also decided on appropriate intervention, including meeting the family, further guidance/education and referrals to external agencies who can offer professional support to students demonstrating discrimination.

How you can promote Zero Tolerance with your child, remind them to:

- Challenge your friends
- Report discrimination incidents to a member of staff ASAP
- Check on the student that may have experienced discrimination

During this half-term the Staffordshire Highway Awareness Team delivered a number of assemblies to each year group, looking at making the correct decision when travelling in a car, asking who is responsible for ensuring seatbelts are worn, distractions and the volume of music. KS4 looked at peer pressure and always having a choice when getting into a car, covering speeding and drink driving.

Year 11 also had an assembly presented by the Staffordshire School Nurse Team focusing on safe sex, STIs and different types of contraception.



PSHE Update:

The following topics have been covered this half-term during tutor time and KS4 PSHE lessons:

Year 7: Safety inside & outside of school. Career aspirations. Tobacco, caffeine & alcohol. Vaping

Year 8: Drugs and alcohol. Food champions. Careers and life choices. Vaping

Year 9: Substance use, alcohol and the law. Career goals. Vaping

Year 10: Social Media. Mental health. Financial decisions. Drugs, alcohol and the law. Vaping

Year 11: Further education applications. Gangs, drugs, alcohol and law. Vaping

Online Safety Weekly Updates:

Remember to check the Online Safety emails that get set weekly via ParentMail.

This half-term we have covered:

- Parental Control on new devices
- Smartphone safety tips
- Mylol
- Persuasive Online Design

School Safeguarding Team: Mr Simpson, Mr Foskett, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Ager, Mr Herbert, Miss Julius & Mr Croydon

Staffordshire Children Advice Support Service— 0800 111 8007

You can call Staffordshire Children Advice Support Service as parent/carer or as a member of the public. If you have any concerns about a child you can call this number for support if you feel a child is at serious risk or harm.

Discrimination: The negative impact of Social Media –Andrew Tate

Who is Andrew Tate?

Andrew Tate, a former professional kickboxer from America and Britain, has transformed into an internet personality. He refers to himself as a 'success coach' and runs a subscription-based online marketing program called 'Hustler's University' with a substantial following of over 100,000 subscribers.

However, Tate has gained publicity recently due to his controversial comments and behaviors. These include victim-blaming rape survivors, leaving the country amidst rape allegations, dismissing mental illness, and promoting gendered violence and misogyny. Despite being banned from social media and facing legal consequences, there has been a concerning increase in incidents involving Tate in schools. These incidents mirror his views and have led to an escalation in cases being referred to PREVENT, a government organisation focused on safeguarding individuals from extremism and radicalisation.



There are growing concerns about his influence on young men, particularly in promoting misogynistic extremism, which is slipping through the cracks of existing safeguarding policies. His harmful messaging is not only shared through social media but also through his 'Hustler's University' platform.

Why are young people interested in this behaviour?

There are various factors that can contribute to a child or young person's interest in harmful content online. One reason is the lure of a glamorous lifestyle, as many influencers and personalities who promote these behaviours are seen as successful and inspiring. Additionally, the promise of fast fame through controversial actions can attract attention and make individuals popular on social media. Feelings of isolation and loneliness can also make young people vulnerable to this type of content, as it offers them a sense of acceptance and new connections.

Seeking advice is another motivation, as young individuals may turn to social media for answers to their insecurities or problems, and some personalities present themselves as motivational speakers. Lastly, the desire to fit in with peers or older siblings who consume this harmful content can drive young people to engage with it. It is crucial to recognise that children and young people are still developing emotionally, physically, and mentally, and their engagement with harmful content does not necessarily indicate full understanding or agreement.

Advice for Parents and Carers:

- 1. Stay calm.** If your child or young person in your care is exhibiting these behaviours or being targeted by them, the best thing you can do is realise that there is a problem that they need your help with. Approach them with gentleness and love, even if you dislike their behaviour
- 2. Talk to them.** Ask them to explain what happened, and give them space to tell you in their own words. It may be emotional or embarrassing to discuss, but being able to talk through complex feelings in a supportive environment will help them.
- 3. Be honest.** It can be hard, but consider how your own actions (or those of family members or friends) might be affecting this behaviour. This may present in shouting, teasing, pressure, or even bullying, and could affect their coping mechanisms.
- 4. Identify help.** It's important that children and young people have someone they can turn to for help, even if that person is not you. Please speak to a member of the Pastoral Team for additional

Potential Risks

When considering the impact that harmful behaviours may have on children and young people, it's important to highlight these potential risks.

- Replicating or engaging in the behaviour in order to 'fit in' with peers.
- Low self-esteem when comparing themselves to 'successful' personalities.
- Being the victim or perpetrator of cyberbullying.
- Having an emotional reaction to harmful content online.
- Damage to their reputation that could impact relationships and future plans.



The following pages of the newsletter are posters for a range of enrichment opportunities for you and your families over the next few weeks, including a free session from a sleep hygiene expert giving advice on building healthy sleep habits with children and young people.

On the next page is a worksheet which we use with students who may be struggling with their emotions and need time to reflect and to re-focus. The worksheet has been launched as part of Children's Mental Health Week and we have been discussing this during Tutor Time, asking the students to think about how they look after their own wellbeing. We have also been showing the following video which is well worth a watch www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Nww1Pr-dfQ. Finally, the next video, www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKE2dzzKDRI, is a short film hosted by Roman Kemp that tackles young people's mental health. Please watch with your child and discuss some of the key points highlighted.

School Safeguarding Team: Mr Simpson, Mr Foskett, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Ager, Mr Herbert, Miss Julius & Mr Croydon

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Things that help me feel good

Draw a picture or write down the things you do to help you look after your mental health.

People I can talk to:

Things I want to share.....



LGBTQ+ Equality Forum!

Every Tuesday and Thursday Breaktime

Held in the library.

Open to all members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies to socialise, chat, seek support, discuss LGBTQ+ rights, issues and many other topics!

Just BE You

See Miss Julius for more information



Empowering Parents, Carers, and Professionals: Building Healthy Sleep Habits with Children and Young People

With Sleep Hygiene Expert,
Paul Andre

Online

Wednesday 7th February
6.30pm - 7.30pm



scan for
tickets





Staffordshire
County Council



GOING WILD!



For Random Acts of Kindness Week

Free 1 week course starting Sunday 11th February
2024! For families in Staffordshire, with children of
all ages.



Be kind to yourself, others and the planet!



The course is made up of two parts:

1.) Going Wild Event at Marquis Drive, Cannock Chase, WS12 4PW - Sunday 11th February 1pm - 4pm - Fun, hands-on nature themed activities to celebrate RAOKW! Make bird feeders, medals or try woodland yoga. Pick up your pack (including your **free sapling!**) to then complete at home over the following week.

2.) It's Over to You - Take on the kindness challenge and complete all seven acts of kindness throughout the following week. There will be online resources to help you and inspire further acts of kindness! Your family will receive a certificate of achievement at the end of the course!



For more information and to reserve your place contact Rebecca
on 07525 120117 or communityforestservices@gmail.com





Focus on Nature

Free 5 week course starting on Thursday 15th February

This is a 10 hour online course, which you complete in your own time. You will receive an email pack, each Thursday, with activities designed to guide you through mindful ways to connect with nature and support your wellbeing. Whilst this is a not an introduction to photography skills, there will be a particular focus on nature photography suitable for all experience levels.

If you enjoy using your camera, camera phone, or iPad to connect and interact with nature then this could be for you.

Staffordshire residents can join this course for free to access weekly activities straight to your inbox with online resources to support your learning.

For more information, or to reserve your place, please contact Rebecca on 07525 120117 or, communityforestservices@gmail.com





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HOW ON EARTH?

**Free 4 week online course
starting Monday 19th February
2024. For families in Staffordshire
with children aged 4-16**

Families are guided through fun,
flexible, hands-on activities to open
up conversations about climate
change, connections with nature and
making small, sustainable changes.

You will receive a weekly email activity
pack, full of themed ideas to try at times
to suit you. From waste free picnics, to
upcycling projects to forest bathing, we
will support you to adapt the activities for
your family.



For more information and to reserve your place contact
Rebecca on 07525 120117 or
communityforestservices@gmail.com

FREE FOR STAFFORDSHIRE RESIDENTS AGED 19 OR OVER

Introduction to Forest Bathing

**In-person session on Friday March 1st from 10am - 2pm
at Birches Valley*, Cannock Chase.**

Starts on Friday 23rd February with online course introduction and starter activities. Follow up activities and homework will be provided to complete this 12 hour course.

Join us for this blended learning course, where we will guide you through a variety of exercises and ideas to deepen a connection to nature, ranging from breathing exercises, to barefoot walking to foraged art. We will delve into the science behind Forest Bathing and consider how to adapt ideas for everyday practice, to support health and wellbeing.



Contact Rebecca to book your place or find out more - 07525 120117 / Communityforestservices@gmail.com * Subsidised parking has been arranged, contact for details

