

Wednesday, 1st September 2021

Safeguarding Updates: September 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I hope you all had a restful summer break. I am writing to you to update you on recent developments regarding safeguarding your sons and daughters both in and out of school.

The NSPCC has recently published the results of its research into online grooming of children and noted that offences have increased by 70% since 2017/18. The main medium used by groomers is Instagram. I include below a link to a guide for parents to the risks and need to know facts about Instagram:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/hub/view/guide/instagram-reels>.

There has also been a real increase in the incidences of young people having nude pictures put online. In most cases it is not the children themselves who have uploaded the images. Childline have developed a tool for young people to have any images that appear online deleted/ removed:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/remove-nude-image-shared-online/>

Our Health and Safeguarding Drop-In Surgeries will continue to run throughout this academic year. Dates and details will follow.

Finally, if you require any support or advice with any of the issues in this newsletter please do not hesitate to contact us via one of the following methods:

- 1) Whisper Button - this can be anonymous:
<https://www.swgflwhisper.org.uk/report/har4>
- 2) Emailing the Safeguarding Team via concerns@hdhs.school
- 3) Calling the school and speaking to a member of the Safeguarding Team (DSL: Mr J. Loten, DDSL: Mrs N. Prior).

Yours faithfully,

J. W. Loten
Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead