

Safeguarding



Welcome to the Sandwell College Safeguarding Newsletter. We hope you find the information within this newsletter informative and useful.

What is Safeguarding?

A lot of people are unsure what exactly is meant by the term 'Safeguarding', so below is the definition of what Safeguarding is.

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and young people to protect them from harm.

Safeguarding means:

- Protecting children and young people from abuse and maltreatment
- Preventing harm to children and young people's health or development
- Ensuring children and young people grow up with the provision of safe and effective care.

Everyone has a responsibility to keep children and young people safe.



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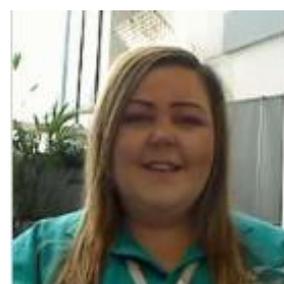
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If you need to speak to a member of the Safeguarding team, please come and see us in **UG/18** or give us a call on **0121 667 5101**. Alternatively, you can email us at **safeguarding@sandwell.ac.uk**

EmergencySMS

What is emergencySMS?

If you cannot make voice calls, you can now contact the 999 emergency services by SMS text from your mobile phone. Emergency SMS is part of the standard 999 service which has been designed specifically for people with hearing loss or difficulty with speech.

What is an emergency?

Please do not send test or non-emergency texts. Only use emergencySMS for real emergencies.

For example if:

- Someone's life is at risk
- A crime is happening now
- Someone is injured or threatened
- There is a fire or people are trapped
- You need an ambulance urgently
- Someone is in trouble on cliffs, on a shoreline or is missing at sea.

How do I use emergencySMS?

Register

You will only be able to use this service if you have registered with emergencySMS first.

Register now: do not wait for an emergency.

To register, text 'Register' to 999. You will get a reply, then follow the instructions you are sent.

What the emergency services need to know when you text 999:

Who?

Police, Ambulance, Fire and Rescue or Coastguard.

What?

Briefly, what is the problem.

Where?

Exactly where the problem is happening. Give the name of the road, house number, postcode or nearby landmark, if possible

What happens next?

The emergency services will either ask for more information or will tell you that help is on the way.

Do not assume that your message has been received by the emergency services until they send you a message back.

It will usually take about two minutes before you get a reply. If you don't get a reply within three minutes, try again or find other ways of getting help.

For further information, visit:

www.emergencysms.org.uk

www.actionhearingloss.org.uk/esms

**ACTION ON
HEARING
LOSS**

Contact **999**
by **SMS text**



Hate Crime

Hate crimes are any crimes that are targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards a person's:

- Disability
- Race or ethnicity
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender identity

This can be committed against a person or property.

A victim does not have to be a member of the group which the hostility is targeted. In fact, anyone could be a victim of a hate crime.

Crimes committed against someone because of their disability, gender-identity, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation are hate crimes and should be reported to the police.

Hate crimes can include:

- Threatening behaviour
- Physical attacks such as assaults
- Robbery
- Vandalism, criminal damage, graffiti or arson
- Inciting others to commit hate crimes
- Harassment
- Financial exploitation
- Cyberbullying

How to spot hate crime...

- Changes in routine, behaviour, appearance, finances or household e.g. new people visiting or staying over, lots of new 'friends', lots more noise or rubbish than there usually is.
- Unexplained injuries
- Weight loss
- Not taking care of themselves and looking untidy and dirty
- Bills not being paid
- Suddenly short of money or losing possessions
- The victim doing what they are told to do by a 'friend'
- Showing signs of mental ill health
- Not being with usual networks of friends/family or missing weekly activities
- Goods or packages arriving at a person's house (and then being collected by someone else soon after)

HATE RACISM
HATE DISCRIMINATION
HATE BULLYING
HATE HOMOPHOBIA
HATE DISABLISM

ST  P HATE CRIME

Selfies vs Sexting

Selfie

Noun

'sel.fi/

INFORMAL. A photograph that you take of yourself, usually with a mobile phone. Selfies are often published using social media.

Sexting

Noun

'sekst.in/

The activity of sending text messages that are about sex or intended to sexually excite someone.

Ten years ago, no one knew what a 'selfie' was. Well, there were such things as selfies, but they weren't called that.

When you're first dating somebody, it's perfectly fine to text photos of yourself that are amusing, funny, cute or flirty; but once you send one of your most intimate parts, chances are it can escape from the person you're sending it to and suddenly it's all over the internet.

What is sexting?

Sexting is when someone shares sexual, naked or semi-naked images or videos of themselves or others, or sends sexually explicit messages.

They can be sent using mobiles, tablets, smartphones, laptops – any device that allows you to share media and messages.

Sexting may also be called:

- Trading nudes
- Dirties
- Pic for pic



What the law says about sexting...

Sexting can be seen as harmless, but the law states that if you are under the age of 18, it is illegal to share an 'indecent' picture of yourself, or to look at or share someone else's. A young person is breaking the law if they:

- Take an explicit photo or video of themselves or a friend
- Shares an explicit image or video of a child (a person under the age of 18), even if shared between young people of the same age.
- Possess, download or store an explicit image or video of a young person, even if the young person gave their permission for it to be created.

As of January 2016 in England and Wales, if a young person is found creating or sharing images, the police can choose to record that a crime has been committed but that taking formal action isn't in the public interest.



What are the risks of sexting?

You have no control of the images and how they're shared.

It is easy to send a photo or message, but the sender has no control about how it's passed on.

When images are sorted or shared online they become public. Some people may think that images and videos only last a few seconds on social media and then they're deleted, but they can still be saved or copied by others. This means that photos or videos which a young person may have shared privately could still end up being shared between other people they do not know.

Blackmail, bullying and harm.

Young people may think 'sexting' is harmless but it can leave them vulnerable to:

- ***Blackmail***
An offender may threaten to share the pictures with the child's family and friends unless the child sends money or more images
- ***Bullying***
If images are shared with their peers or in school, the child may be bullied
- ***Unwanted attention***
Images posted online can attract the attention of sex offenders, who know how to search for, collect and modify images.
- ***Emotional distress***
Children can feel embarrassed and humiliated. If they're very distressed this could lead to suicide or self-harm.

What to do if someone asks you to send a photo.

Sometimes people send photos because they are indirectly made to feel guilty. For example, somebody might say 'I sent you a photo, so where's mine?' or say that you 'promised' them that you would send a picture. This is wrong; it is also a form of emotional blackmail.

You do not owe them anything and they should not try to make you feel guilty.

For more information visit

www.nspcc.co.uk

