SAFEGUARDING STUDENTS ONLINE: REMOTE LEARNING POLICY FOR STUDENTS

Revised: April 2020

During this period of school closure, SGSE's approach to Safeguarding and Child Protection continues to follow Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) and other DfE Statutory Guidance. Our school is operating differently to normal during this unprecedented time, yet our Safeguarding principles and procedures remain the same.

At SGSE, the best interests of the child always come first. If we as a school have concerns regarding any child/family/incident, we will continue to act as soon as we possibly can. A Designated Safeguarding Lead is available to receive contact should they be needed and our students should continue to be protected whilst online.

During this time, we appreciate students are likely to be spending greater amounts of time on computers and electronic devices, and as such we need Parents/Guardians to remain vigilant and assist children regarding online safety, as the risks of online bullying, grooming, abuse (including peer on peer abuse) are potentially heightened.

Parent/Guardian Support

We as a School request that Parents/Guardians have regular discussions with your child, and are aware of what your child is being asked to do in relation to their remote learning, including:

- sites they will be asked to use;
- school staff their child will interact with;
- set age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices and use internet filters to block malicious websites;
- ensure younger children's access to computers or mobile devices is supervised;
- set limits on the amount of screen time their children have each day;
- monitor and discuss online interactions and the appropriateness of their interactions with peers (and others) on all forms of social media/networking sites/gaming sites;
- report concerns immediately.

If a student is suspected of causing harm to another pupil, the School will seek advice from Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Partnership as to how best manage and

investigate the concern, as well as ensuring support for the victim during this period of school closure.

We want to support you in creating a safe online environment for your child, so that they feel safe and secure both academically, socially and emotionally.

The list of resources below may be able to assist and support you as parents and guardians to keep your children safe online:

- [Thinkuknow](#) provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online
- [Parent info](#) is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations
- [Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support
- [Internet matters](#) provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- [London Grid for Learning](#) has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC, including a guide to social networks, apps and games
- [Let's Talk About It](#) has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services

Reporting Concerns

If you have any concerns regarding online safety whilst the school is closed, you can raise these concerns and receive support/advice by contacting a School's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) on DSL@sgse.co.uk or through the School's switchboard on 0121 625 0398 (8.30am – 3.30pm).

Alternatively, if you have safeguarding concerns about a child out of school hours, you are able to call Birmingham Children's Advice and Support Services direct on 0121 303 1888; Solihull Services on 0121 788 4300; Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board on 0121 569 3100 or Walsall Services 01922 653553.

Practical support for reporting harmful or upsetting content as well as bullying and online abuse is also available outside of school.

Get support by:

- reporting harmful online content to the UK Safer Internet Centre
- getting government advice and trusted resources from Educate Against Hate on safeguarding from radicalisation, building resilience to extremism, and promoting shared values
- CEOP's-For advice on making a report of online abuse or bullying

If you are experiencing bullying or abuse online, you can:

- get advice on reporting online abuse from the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection command
- get advice and support from Anti-Bullying Alliance for children who are being bullied

Schools may also wish to use resources such as Tootoot to provide a confidential route for pupils to report bullying or abuse.

Schools can access the free Professionals Online Safety Helpline which supports the online safeguarding of both children and professionals. Call 0344 381 4772 or email helpline@saferinternet.org.uk. The helpline is open from Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm.

Annex – 'Online Safety' support Helpsheet and Weblinks:

- It is important that all students, no matter their age, are safe whilst being reliant on electronic devices. The student planner contains details of the ICT Acceptable Use Policy, which may assist your child in keeping safe online.
- Ensure you use the privacy settings, parental controls and built in internet safety features provided by the major internet service providers. https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parental-controls-offered-your-home-internet-provider has guides for parental controls.
- For parents/guardians experiencing any internet safety issues with their children, Parent Zone provides a national helpline service at help@theparentzone.co.uk
- If you become concerned about your child's safety or another child, you can contact the school's Safeguarding leads via email: dsl@sgse.co.uk or contact Birmingham Children's Partnership direct on 0121 303 1888. Other places for support for a wide range of pastoral and safeguarding queries are:
  - o ChildLine - hotline for children and young people 0800 1111. Chat online at www.childline.org.uk/get-support/1-2-1-counsellor-chat
  - o Samaritans 24 hour listening support. Call 116123
  - o If you are a parent and are concerned about cyber bullying, you can contact Bullying UK through www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help or on 0808 800 2222
  - o UK Safer Internet Centre www.saferinternet.org.uk
  - o National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247 (24/7 service).
  - o NSPCC www.nspcc.org.uk
  - o Homelessness emergency: www.gov.uk/emergency-housing-if-homeless
  - o Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health assertive outreach teams www.bsmhft.nhs.uk/our-services/adult-services/adult-communityservices/assertive-outreach-teams/
  - o Young minds www.youngminds.org.uk Young Minds Crisis Messenger — text YM to 85258
  - o Birmingham mental health service for children and young people aged 0 to 25 bwc.nhs.uk/forward-thinking-birmingham
  - o Family action www.family-action.org.uk Family Line 0808 802 6666, text 07537 404 282
  - o www.cruse.org.uk Bereavement support

o Papyrus Hopeline UK (suicide prevention) 0800 068 4141

o www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents parental advice on keeping children safe online, including reporting to CEOP.

The policies on our website are also a good source of information. Our policies contain links to organisations which can support parents, guardians and young people during difficult times. Please read this policy in conjunction with the existing Acceptable use of Cameras and Mobile Devices policy, Anti Bullying policy, Exclusion policy, Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation policy, SEND and Inclusion policy and Behaviour Management policy.