

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Safeguarding update September 2019

I am writing to you to provide you with a safeguarding update so that you may be more aware of some of the risks to your son/daughter in school and the local community. I also enclose some support tools for your perusal and reference.

Online safety and awareness is a school priority. As most children have mobile phones they have access to the internet and a wide range of content, some of which may not be appropriate. Please direct them to this site: <https://reportharmfulcontent.com/> if they stumble across inappropriate or harmful content or if they are approached by someone they do not know online. This tool will help them report anything untoward and encourage safe online behaviour. It is worth pointing out that the average age of online gamers in the UK is 32 years old. Do you know who your child is communicating with online? There are clear safeguarding and grooming risks if they are communicating with unknown adults. Please contact us if you require further advice, guidance or support.

We take very seriously our role in supporting your child's mental health and noticing any signs of depression. Please follow this link to see the NHS' 5 factors for positive mental well being: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/improve-mental-wellbeing/>.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to our Anti-Bullying Protocol on our website. This shows how we tackle bullying and how you can follow the process: <https://www.hdhs.org.uk/parents/policies/>.

I hope the start of term has been a smooth and positive one and we look forward to working with you and your child during what we anticipate to be a successful academic year.

Yours faithfully,



J.W. Loten
Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead