

# Gillingham School Safeguarding Newsletter



Summer Term 2023

## Gillingham School Safeguarding Team



Mr C Gordon  
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Mrs R Wright  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding  
Lead (Year 9)



Mrs J Brocksom  
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Lead (Year 10)



Mrs D Gordge  
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Lead (Year 7)



Mrs Z Crocker  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding  
Lead (Year 8)



Mrs S Shearn  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding  
Lead (Year 11)



Mrs J Stirk  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding  
Lead (6th Form Team)



Mrs T Whyntie  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding  
Lead (6th Form Team)



Mrs H Lister  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding  
Lead (6th Form Team)

## Welcome

Welcome to the Summer term Safeguarding newsletter where we will provide details of what is going on in school to promote well-being and keep your children safe. We will also signpost some further support where appropriate. The most obvious recent development in this area is the new school fence which was completed over May half-term and now surrounds the whole site. We are now far more confident in our ability to monitor all comings and goings to and from school to ensure that nobody is either on or offsite when they shouldn't be.



## Assemblies

This half-term's assemblies are celebrating Pride month, as well as reinforcing our expectations around being 'Active Bystanders'. We will also be looking at some issues of media bias and how the idea of 'echo chambers' in the media can negatively influence us all by reinforcing bias. We are also expanding student voice and are delighted that some of our assemblies this term have been designed and delivered by sixth formers, who have been keen to present assemblies on bullying and autism. Members of the sixth form kick-started a week of activities where we raised the profile of how to deal with unkind language that is often disguised as banter. One of the new avenues of support is a new email address where anyone can report concerns anonymously.

The address is

[itsnotbanter@gillingham-school.co.uk](mailto:itsnotbanter@gillingham-school.co.uk)

This work aims to empower students to stand up and challenge language and behaviour they are not happy with. This will be supported by discussion in this half-term's PSHE curriculum where we will be encouraging students to be 'Active Bystanders'.



## Safeguarding Email

[safeguarding@gillingham-dorset.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@gillingham-dorset.co.uk)

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## Vapes and Drugs

As part of our determination to educate students about, and protect them from the dangers of illicit drugs, Gillingham School has a programme of work that is delivered through assemblies, as part of the PSHE curriculum and targeted drop-in sessions with outside agencies. Ensuring that our school has a safe and healthy environment for all students is a priority and reflects our school's values and expectations.

As part of our educational programme, during the week beginning July 3rd, we have arranged a visit to the school from K9 Deployment, a company that specialises in the deployment of drugs search dogs. The team from K9 Deployment regularly take part in assemblies / class activities where they explain the types of dogs they use; how they work and carry out small demonstrations. This has been undertaken by schools in other parts of Dorset and the feedback from teachers and students is that similar visits have proven to be an excellent resource in raising student awareness.

We hope that you are reassured by this initiative. Each of us has a part to play in ensuring every child and young person is kept safe throughout their education and this can best be achieved by working collaboratively and with expert support. If you would like to find out more about K9 deployment, please visit their website:

<https://www.k9deployment.co.uk/>



## Young Carers

A Young carer is defined as anyone under 18 who is supporting the family home more than is normally expected of a child, help to look after a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition, or drug or alcohol problem'. I would like to introduce Claire Murray, a member of the PE department who will be leading in this area in school. Support is available for young carers, although it is sometimes unclear who exactly can be identified as one. There should be no stigma surrounding this and we shall be working with an organisation called 'My Time' over the coming year to see what support we can access and how we can make Young Carers school experience as positive as possible. More details will follow in future newsletters, but if you have any questions about this, please contact Claire at

[cmurray@gillingham-school.co.uk](mailto:cmurray@gillingham-school.co.uk)  
Further information can be found here:

<https://www.mytimeyoungcarers.org/are-you-a-young-carer>

## Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership

