



## Safeguarding Update February 2023

### Introduction

Starting from this month we will be creating a monthly Safeguarding update for all parents/carers in our community. The aim is to share key information and advice to support and address topics and issues that students may face at certain points throughout their lives and to ensure we are doing everything possible to keep them safe. The safeguarding team at the Emmbrook school include the following members of staff: Mrs R Ridsdale (DSL) Mrs Woolfenden (DDSL) Mrs Guinn (DDSL) Miss Fry (DDSL) Mr Johnson (DDSL) Miss Horne (DDSL) and Mrs Abbot (safeguarding support) Please never hesitate to contact us directly if you have any worries or concerns or via our email address: [z\\_safeguarding@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:z_safeguarding@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk). We also have our student dedicated email where they can also report any worries or concerns: [here4you@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:here4you@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

### Internet Safety

On the 7<sup>th</sup> February it is 'safer internet day' we are utilising this opportunity to raise the profile of how to stay safe on-line with both students and parents. Please see five top tips below:

- 1. Be careful about talking to people you don't know and trust in real life – anyone can pretend to be a child online. If you do talk to people you don't know, don't give away personal information – such as what street you live on, where you go to school, or share your location with them. Say no to any requests they send you for images or videos of yourself, and stop talking to them*
- 2. Set your profiles to private, to limit what others can see*
- 3. Think carefully about what you share and with who. Once you've shared an image, you've no control over what the other person does with it. Remember, it's illegal to take, share or view sexual images of under-18s, full stop*
- 4. Be mindful of your digital footprint. What you post online now could come back to bite you later, like when applying for jobs, college or university*
- 5. If you see something upsetting, or someone bullies you, tell an adult you trust. Report it too.*

Don't feel confident starting a conversation with your child about what they're up to online? Read this advice from the NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety>

### How we can challenge victim blaming and sexual harassment in our school

In school currently we are completing educational work on this topic, this includes being taught within our RSE curriculum, intervention workshops, student groups etc to ensure we are raising the profile and tackling this within school so that students feel confident to share and speak out if they are or have experienced this. We have included key information below:

#### What is sexual Harassment?

Sexual harassment means unwanted sexual conduct.

It can happen online and offline. It can include: 1) **Sexual comments**, such as sexual stories, lewd comments, sexualised name-calling or sexual remarks about clothes and appearance. 2) **Sexual 'jokes'** or taunting. 3) **Physical behaviour**, such as deliberately brushing against someone or interfering with their clothes (note: this can sometimes cross a line into sexual violence), or displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature. 4) **Online sexual harassment**, such as non-consensual image sharing, unwanted sexual comments and messages, sexualised online bullying, sexual exploitation, coercion, threats, or upskirting.

#### **Steps being taken within school by staff to support this:**

- 1) Challenge it there and then.** It's important to do this to send a clear message that the comment or behaviour isn't acceptable. Don't dismiss or downplay an incident.
- 2) Challenge the behaviour, not the person.** This depersonalises the challenge. For example, "That is sexist language" is a more helpful comment than "You're sexist"
- 3) Explain what the problem is.** This gives a reason for your challenge and helps pupils see why their comment or behaviour was problematic.
- 4) Support the victim and show empathy.** Let them know it's not their fault. Consider the incident from their perspective and encourage others to do the same.

**Please contact a member of the safeguarding team with school to discuss any concerns or you would like to disclose an incident.**