

# St Paul's Catholic School

## Safeguarding Newsletter Advent Term 22/23

Welcome to our first safeguarding newsletter of the academic year at St. Paul's. All staff here are of the view that your child's safety at school is our most important priority. We recognise therefore the importance of communicating with you the messages we are sharing with our students. After reading the following, we hope that you will be able to re-enforce the importance of these messages with your children at home. If at any stage, you feel you need to share any information regarding any of the safeguarding issues raised, then please get in touch with one of our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).



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### 'Keeping yourself safe'

Tutors have spent form time and PHSE sharing with all students, key messages on how to keep themselves safe. We have talked to students about identifying their **'Trusted Adult'** at school, a member of staff who they feel they could approach if they have concerns about themselves or another student. We have also shared some general messages on how to stay safe, report concerns and further support we have on offer, ranging from advice on online safety to mental health. These messages are summarised in our **Student Safeguarding Policy** which has been shared with all of our young people. **(A copy has been attached with this newsletter)**. In addition, we have provided 3 key reminders to all our students to keep in their lanyards:



***St. Paul's Catholic School***

## Safeguarding Reminders

- You have the right to feel safe at school
- If you are worried about something tell a trusted adult in school
- Your concerns will always be taken seriously

[ple-safeguarding@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:ple-safeguarding@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk)

### **HSB: Harmful Sexual Behaviours**

Last academic year we shared with you our HSB Charter, which outlined our school community's Zero Tolerance approach to any form of Harmful Sexual Behaviours. This charter has been re-published this year to include our new year 7 cohort, and key messages shared in PHSE time. In addition, we have worked with a drama group called Alter Ego, who presented their production 'Chelsea's Story'. This is an exceptionally powerful work, which has been seen by over a million school students in the UK. It deals with issues of healthy and unhealthy relationships, safer internet use, grooming and victim blaming. Student feedback has been very positive, and the production has worked to re-enforce the messages shared in our Charter.

In addition, please also see a link to a Parent's Guide to online Sexualised Behaviour, created by the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachael De Souza, called **'The Things I wish my parents had known'**

[https://www.stpauls.leicester.sch.uk/wpcontent/uploads/sites/6/2022/10/cco\\_talking\\_to\\_your\\_child\\_about\\_online\\_sexual\\_harassment\\_a-guide\\_for\\_parents\\_dec\\_2021.pdf](https://www.stpauls.leicester.sch.uk/wpcontent/uploads/sites/6/2022/10/cco_talking_to_your_child_about_online_sexual_harassment_a-guide_for_parents_dec_2021.pdf)

### **Prevent**

We have also worked closely with the Leicester City Council Prevent Team. Last month, a theatre company called "Going to Extremes" delivered a 45 minute performance to students in year 9 and 10. The "Going to Extremes" play was performed by three actors and aimed to raise awareness and build resilience around extremism and radicalisation.

Exploring far-right political as well as Islamist-inspired extremism, the play looks at what happened to three young people (each with their own vulnerabilities) that found themselves targeted by individuals or groups that wanted to use them for their own agenda.

Using simple story-telling techniques, their stories are played out and examined, attempting to understand how and why these people were targeted, and that young people can prevent this sort of thing happening in the first place by encouraging open dialogue and conversation, empathy, understanding and respect for others' views and beliefs.

After watching the performance, students had:

- A raised awareness of how and why young people may become radicalised into violent extremism
- A raised awareness of the process involved in radicalisation
- A more developed resilience against extremist narratives
- An understanding of the importance of challenging extremist narratives, and discussing them openly
- A raised awareness of where to go to seek advice and help



### Anti-Bullying Week / Mental Health



The week of 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November was Anti-Bullying week. This year the campaign message has been for young people to 'Reach Out'. We have been talking to our students about the importance of demonstrating kindness and not only sharing messages about what Bullying is and where to report it, but also the importance of not tolerating and ignoring bullying. We have spoken about how bullying not only exists in schools, but also will be seen later on in life, for example in the work place or on social media. We have also shared with you a resource released during this week to support Parents and Carers in

combating **Online Bullying**.

Many thanks for your continued support, and please feel free to contact me at: [acurran@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:acurran@st-pauls.leicester.sch.uk) should you have any questions or concerns.

If you are concerned about the safety or well-being of a child during the school holidays, please contact children's social care: Duty and Advice; 0116 454 1004. If you think a child is in immediate danger call the police on 999 or call the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 straight away.

Best Wishes

Andrew Curran

Mr A Curran  
Vice Principal