

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2026

## Term 1 Safeguarding Newsletter

Dear Families,



A very warm welcome to all our families, especially those who have joined the Tiffield family this September.

I would like to introduce myself as the school's new Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

Alongside leading on safeguarding, I will also be overseeing pastoral areas across the school.

Throughout the year, we will regularly share information, guidance, and useful resources to help support you and your family particularly in relation to the national updates below. All staff have

completed extensive safeguarding training at the start of the academic year. This included updates to *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (KCSIE) and a review of our school-specific safeguarding procedures and protocols.

### What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the action that schools and colleges take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that children are safe, supported, and able to thrive.

### Key Updates for Parents

1. **Mobile Phone Policy** -Schools are increasingly expected to operate as mobile phone-free environments. Students should not have access to mobile phones during the school day, helping to reduce distractions and minimise online safety risks.
2. **Online Safety and Artificial Intelligence (AI)**- National guidance now includes specific references to the risks associated with artificial intelligence (AI), including deepfakes, cyber threats, misinformation, and the use of tools such as VPNs to bypass online safety measures.
3. **Gender-Questioning Children**- Updated guidance includes a detailed section on supporting gender-questioning children. The guidance emphasises careful decision-making, consideration of single-sex spaces, and the importance of engaging with parents and carers when discussing requests for social transition.
4. **Mental Health and Wellbeing**- There is now greater emphasis on recognising when mental health concerns, including self-harm and thoughts of suicide, may become safeguarding concerns requiring additional support and intervention.
5. **Child-on-Child Abuse** -The guidance has been strengthened to provide greater clarity around preventing and responding to harmful sexual behaviours, misogyny, and prejudice-based incidents between children.

### General Safeguarding Information

If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child, please speak to any member of staff.

The following staff hold key safeguarding responsibilities within school:

#### **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

- Sarah Smith - [ssmith@tiffieldacademy.org](mailto:ssmith@tiffieldacademy.org)

#### **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs)**

- Emma Butler
- Bonnie Pawlusek
- Becky Pinto

#### **Family Help Lead / Family Support Worker and DDSL**

- Emma Stanyon - [estanyon@tiffieldacademy.org](mailto:estanyon@tiffieldacademy.org)

If you are concerned about a child outside of school, or wish to seek advice directly, you can contact:

### NSPCC Helpline

☎ 0808 800 5000

### Northamptonshire MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub)

☎ 0300 126 7000

### Useful Websites and Resources for Parents

#### NSPCC

The NSPCC website contains a wide range of advice, guidance, and support for families on topics including online safety, bullying, mental health, and keeping children safe.

🔗 <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/>

#### CORAM FAMILY LIVES

This website understands that family life and parenting can be challenging and know that the right support at the right time can make all the difference. They offer a comprehensive suite of resources, including a national helpline, online chat, WhatsApp and email support service. They have online advice articles and a wide range of free online parenting courses.

[Coram Family Lives - Parenting and Family Support](#)



**FREE**  
**Northamptonshire Drop Ins**  
Mental Health & Wellbeing Support for 8 - 18 year olds and their parents/carers

- Telephone support available
- One-to-one support
- Wellbeing Activities

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Monday to Friday 1pm - 6pm</b><br/>The Lowdown, 3 Kingswell Street, Northampton, NN1 1PP<br/>01604 634385</p> <p><b>Tuesdays 4pm - 8pm</b><br/>Youth Works at Corby Mind, 18 Argyll St, Corby, NN17 1RU<br/>07479 973085</p> <p><b>Tuesdays 4pm - 8pm</b><br/>Service Six, Rushden Mind Phoenix House, Skinners Hill, Rushden, NN10 9YE<br/>01933 277520</p> <p><b>Wednesdays 4pm - 8pm</b><br/>CHAT Youth Counselling, Souster Youth Building, 30 Market Road, Thrapston, NN14 4JU<br/>01832 274422</p> | <p><b>Wednesdays 4pm - 8pm</b><br/>Time 2 Talk, Chantry House, 88 Watling Street, Towcester, NN12 6BT<br/>01327 706706</p> <p><b>Thursdays 4pm - 8pm</b><br/>Youth Works, 97 Rockingham Rd, Kettering, NN16 9HX<br/>01536 518339</p> <p><b>Saturdays 10am - 2pm</b><br/>Service Six, 15 Sassoon Mews, Wellingborough, NN8 3LT<br/>01933 277520</p> <p><b>Saturdays 12pm - 4pm</b><br/>Time 2 Talk, The Abbey, Market Square, Daventry, NN11 4XG<br/>01327 706706</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|






### \*NEW\* - WHAT IS OPERATION ENCOMPASS?

**Operation Encompass** is a safeguarding partnership between the police and schools that ensures a school is notified before the next school day if police attended a domestic abuse incident involving a child connected to that household.

#### What It Means for Parents:

- **Early Support:** The police share limited, confidential information with the school's trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (known as the "Key Adult") before 9:00am
- **Not a Punishment:** This notification is not an investigation into the parents or a punitive measure. It simply allows the school to understand if a child might be tired, upset, or distressed so they can offer a safe, supportive environment.
- **Strict Confidentiality:** The information received by the school is handled with high security and kept strictly confidential under data protection rules (GDPR). It is only shared with staff on a strict "need-to-know" basis to support the child.
- **Automatic Inclusion:** Because the scheme is a legal requirement under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, schools automatically participate, and parents are usually informed through the school's safeguarding policies or a general notification letter when joining the school.

We encourage all parents and carers to explore the resources available and seek support whenever needed. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to keep all of our children safe.

**Sarah Smith**

Designated Safeguarding Lead/Assistant Principal