

ICS Safeguarding Newsletter 15

Safeguarding at the heart of our community

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding term, I would like to take this opportunity, as Designated Safeguarding Lead, to reflect on the vital role safeguarding plays in our school community and to thank you for the trust and partnership you continue to place in us.

Safeguarding is not a single policy or procedure. It is a shared commitment between school and home to ensure that every child feels safe, valued, respected, and listened to.

In an international community such as ours, where families bring a rich diversity of cultures, languages, and experiences, this shared responsibility is especially important. When children feel secure, understood, and supported, they are better able to learn, grow, and flourish.

Safeguarding in action this term

Throughout this term, safeguarding has remained a priority in both our Primary and Secondary schools. Staff have continued to receive regular training and updates to ensure they are confident in recognising concerns, responding appropriately, and supporting students with care and sensitivity.

In classrooms and tutor sessions, students have engaged in age-appropriate learning around key safeguarding themes, including:

- Identifying trusted adults they can speak to if something worries them
- Understanding the difference between conflict and bullying
- Learning about personal boundaries and respectful relationships
- Developing awareness of online safety and responsible digital behaviour

Safeguarding is not only addressed during dedicated lessons; it is woven into daily school life. Our teachers, pastoral staff, and leaders work

ICS Safeguarding Newsletter 15

together to notice small changes in behaviour, mood, or engagement, knowing that these can sometimes signal that a student needs extra support. When concerns are raised, they are followed up carefully and confidentially, always with the student's best interests at heart.

Listening to children's voices

One of the most important elements of effective safeguarding is ensuring that students feel able to speak up. We work hard to create a school environment where they know that their voices matter and that they will be taken seriously.

In Primary, this may happen through circle time discussions, classroom check-ins, or informal conversations with trusted adults. In Secondary, students may share concerns with form tutors, subject teachers, pastoral staff, or through structured wellbeing sessions. Across the school, students are reminded regularly who they can talk to and how to ask for help.

We also encourage families to continue these conversations at home. Taking time to listen calmly, without rushing to fix the problem, can make a significant difference. Sometimes children need reassurance that their feelings are valid and that it is safe to talk, even about small worries.

Supporting children during the holiday period

As we move into the winter break, routines often change. While this is a welcome and exciting time for many families, it can also present new challenges for children and young people.

Online safety

During holidays, screen time often increases. We encourage parents to maintain open conversations about online activity, including gaming, social media, and messaging platforms. Rather than focusing solely on restrictions, regular check-ins and discussions about online behaviour, privacy, and respectful communication are often most effective.

ICS Safeguarding Newsletter 15

Reminding children that they can come to you if something online makes them uncomfortable is key.

Routine, wellbeing, and balance

Children of all ages benefit from a sense of structure. Maintaining regular sleep patterns, balanced routines, and opportunities for physical activity can support both emotional wellbeing and behaviour. Teenagers, in particular, may experience changes in mood or motivation during unstructured time, and gentle support and understanding can be helpful.

Staying safe in the community

As children spend more time socialising, travelling, or visiting new places, it is important that they know how to keep themselves safe. Encourage them to trust their instincts, know who to contact if they feel unsafe, and understand that asking for help is always the right thing to do.

When and how to reach out

We would like to reassure parents that no concern is ever too small to share. If something about your child's behaviour, emotions, or experiences worries you, we encourage you to contact the school.

Safeguarding concerns are handled with discretion, professionalism, and care, and our focus is always on supporting children and families rather than assigning blame.

During term time, the safeguarding team remains available to listen, advise, and act where needed. At the start of the new term, clear contact details will be shared again to ensure families know who to approach and how to access support. This information will be available on our new Safeguarding pages on our website.

A final word of thanks

As we close the term, I would like to thank you for your continued cooperation, communication, and trust. Safeguarding works best when

ICS Safeguarding Newsletter 15

school and families work together, guided by shared values of care, respect, and responsibility.

We are proud of the resilience, kindness, and growth shown by our students this term, and we remain fully committed to ensuring their safety and wellbeing in everything we do.

On behalf of the safeguarding team, I wish you and your families a restful, safe, and enjoyable holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

Kathryn Honey

Primary Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead