SAFEGUARDING UPDATE -JANUARY 2024



Dear Families,

We hope these periodic updates have been helpful to you with regards to safeguarding. As a school, we understand the importance of keeping families informed of potential risks to children without causing unnecessary concern. We strive to achieve this balance, but would appreciate your feedback if you feel we need to adjust our approach.

New Staff

This term we have welcomed several new staff to the school.



Mrs Taylor has joined us in the new role of Safeguarding and Pastoral Administrator. Her role will be to support the Safeguarding and Pastoral staff with supporting students.



Mrs Risbridger has joined us this week as our new receptionist. Many of you will speak to her in person or on the phone, so please make her feel welcome.



Mr Asprey has joined the science department as a technician.



Mr Henderson has joined the premises team.

Key Dates for the diary

12th February - 16th February - HALF TERM

19th February - Inset Day - School closed for

20th February - Students back to school

students

22nd February -Year 10 Parents' meeting

26th February - Year 8 Parents' meeting

19th March -Y9 Options and Parents' meeting

26th March - School photos

28th March - End of term - 12noon

29th March - 12th April - HALF TERM

15th April - Students return to school

6th May - Bank holiday - School closed

27th May - 31st May - Half term

3rd June - Students back to school

19th July - Last day of term

Upcoming parents' evenings - Year 10 and Year 8

We will be trialling a hybrid version of 'in person' and video calls for the upcoming Year 10 and Year 8 parents' evenings in February. There will be an opportunity come into school for the first half of the afternoon to meet with teachers or book a video appointment during the second half.



Please look out for an email with full details and booking information next week.

Unwanted mobile numbers

We have had a family recently raise that their child experienced unwanted calls but were unable to trace the caller. It is important that children know how to manage this as it can be annoying but even upsetting if persistent. All phones can block calls typically following these steps:

- 1. On your child's device, tap Phone.
- 2. Tap Call history.
- 3. Tap a call from the number you want to block.



There are also call blocking app such as <u>KnownCalls</u> which once downloaded ensure your child will no longer receive calls from unknown phone numbers, surveys, banks, or any scammers. If you are concerned about your child being targeted, we would advise reporting to the police.

Safer Internet Day

Next week in assemblies we will mark Safer Internet Day 6th Feburary 2024. Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity to focus on online safety with your child, whatever their age. This year's theme is all about change and influence online and we have created a range of pages to help you talk about these issues and ideas with your child, no matter how much time you have and in an age-appropriate way.

Staying up to date with what children are doing online feels like a challenge for all of us as they quickly grasp the changes far more rapidly than us. sometimes. However, you don't have to be an expert in every new app or service. Simply having conversations with your children about their lives online, and what to do if they need help or something goes wrong, is what's most important. Here are a few simple steps suggested that you can take to help bridge the gap.

Talk little and often

Having a regular open dialogue with your children about their favourite apps, the games they enjoy, and their online friends, will help create an environment where chatting about online experiences becomes a normal part of family life.

Stay proactive

As a result of discussions with your children about their online activities, take time to research the apps they're using, the accounts or channels they're following, and the games they're playing, to get a better idea of what they're experiencing and what your thoughts are towards it.

Seek support

Knowing where to get help is essential. Each app or platform will have its own safety guidelines and reporting features, and having knowledge of how to use these will ensure you can make a report, seek help, and support your child to get the best out of the services they're using.

Safer Internet Organisation offers lots of support for parents https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers



Attendance

The Government have launched a national campaign to support childrens attendance to school called "Moments matter, attendance counts".

The campaign messages aim to primarily reach those parents and carers whose children are taking preventable odd days of absence – or "avoidable absence" – rather than children who face greater barriers to attendance, such as those with long term medical needs or special educational needs and disabilities. Support first approach is really important and at Kings we have a strong wellbeing team to support students including a Wellbeing Practioner, Youth Workers, Mental Health Support Team and Art Therapist as we want to ensure that children can access support in school to support their wellbeing which in turn will help their academic and life outcomes. Research shows prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending school in the future. https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

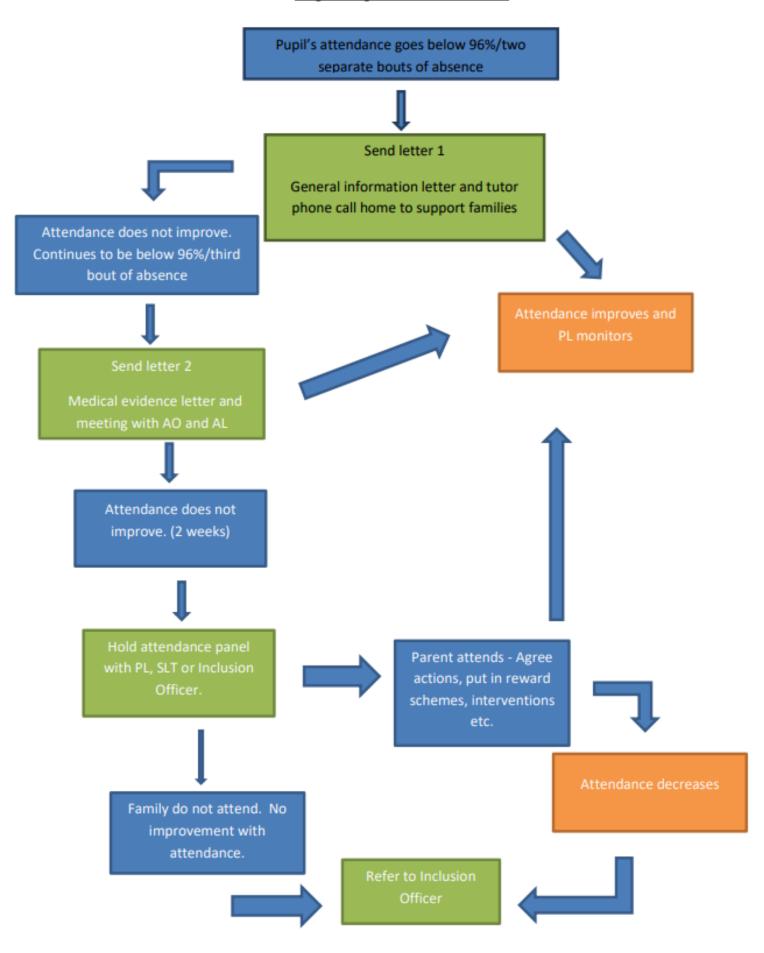
What parents can do to helps us with attendance

- Use Studybugs to inform us of absence or any concerns about illness.
- Talk to Pastoral Team about early signs of stress or anxiety so we can ask our Wellbeing Team to support. Support in best offered at early signs so it can be preventative.
- Provide information about appointments and medical absences
- Avoiding booking appointments during the school day and where unavoidable ensure they come to school before and after the appointment
- Signing in medication to reception so children can be supported to stay in school, this must be done in person

What we will do to support your childs attendance

- We will try to support children to be in school by monitoring absences and talking to them about them.
- Reception team our available at breaks and lunches to monitor and support any children that feel unwell.
- Our HSLW Holly will call after 2 absences to ensure that any support needed is in place
- Our Pastoral Leads will meet with families to offer support if there is a third absence
- We celebrate attendance in assemblies every week
- Whole school rewards for the school on maintaining and improving attendance

Kings College Attendance Process



Parent Groups for Anxious Children

We have recently been contacted about parent groups for those with children with anxiety.

Eikon offer parent/carer support webinars which can support the mental health and wellbeing of their children and young people at home. Combining both theory and practical strategies, the webinars offer a range of accessible ideas for parents to choose from, and to find those that will best suit their family. The webinars last for about an hour with time for questions and answers. The webinars are free to attend and are open to all parents living in Surrey or with children attending school within Surrey.

- Learning Space offer two groups for parents and carers. Parent
 Anxiety course this course focuses on supporting your child/
 young person who may be experiencing anxiety. This course is
 made up of 4 sessions that are 90 minutes each. View the
 website for more information.
- Parent Voice provides a safe space for parents and carers to connect socially, share their experience and get involved within the community. This group is held within Redhill, Surrey. To enquire about this group email clare.d@learningspace.org.uk





What Children & Young People Need to Know about

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's not the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly: being respectful and inclusive to those around us, rather than making offensive and threatening remarks. That's called 'hate speech' and knowing the difference is incredibly important.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day

feel differently.

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely - even if their views are unpopular and might offend

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's theories were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin, even today A frequent exchange of ideas is vitally important for a healthy society.

FREEDUM

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy while having ours challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe

Freedom of expression includes the right not to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal. By law, nobody can force you to say anything you don't want to.

> Free speech is a powerful tool for change justice and reform. Many modern UK rights such as women being allowed to vote, decent working conditions or same-sex marriage - couldn't have been achieved

Meet Our Expert

QUALITY COLLECTIV

The National College

ational Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

♂ @national_online_safety

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Hate speech refers to any communication - like talking, texting or posting online – that negatively targets a group or an individual because they are perceived to be different in some way. Demonising and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes...

> Targeting people or groups because of a protected characteristic – like race, gender identity, sexuality, nationality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on the same characteristics: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example. Separating the target from other human beings is usually an attempt to justify the speaker's bigotry

> Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions. Suggesting that a certain group should be removed from society could be seen as a call to arms, for example – potentially putting people from that group in danger.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or eve that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way. This kind of thinking is always incorrect – but can be incredibly harmful to the group in question.

> Spreading damaging misinformation about a person or group that the speaker views as "different" – essentially, trying to turn others against them by lying. Someone might claim that a recent tragedy is the fault of this entire group, when this is simply not possible.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are. This has been illegal in the UK

for a long time – but some people still try to promote the exclusion of others, which

an cause a huge amount of distress

Safeguarding Team



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Pastoral Lead Year 11



Mr E Bacon KS3 SENCO

I welcome your input and ideas. If there are any topics that you feel we should cover, please don't hesitate to share them with me.

With kind regards and best wishes,

Mrs Mollie Robberts Vice Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead