



Safeguarding Information for students

Safety and welfare

We believe that your safety and welfare is very important.

The Spires College has a special responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all students. This means we should notice if you are being treated badly, listen to you if you want to talk to us about a problem and take advice from other professionals if you need extra help.

Young people are nearly always safe at home, at college and in the community, but sometimes things can happen to make you worried, upset or afraid.

When young people are hurt in some way by an adult or an older young person this might be what is called child abuse. If we think a student has been harmed or is at risk of being harmed, we have a set of rules we follow to help to

protect you. These rules are called safeguarding procedures and a copy of our safeguarding policy is available on the college website.

Although your safety is the responsibility of adults there are ways you can help yourself to keep safe too, so we have given you some tips to think about.

A list of people you can talk to if you are worried, upset or afraid is included on the back page of this booklet.

Remember, you don't need anybody's permission to talk about your worries and you have the right to talk to anyone that you wish.



What we do to keep you safe

The college does lots of things to help you to stay safe. Here are just some of them:

- ▲ We have a safeguarding policy. This policy explains how children might be harmed, the signs to look for and what staff should do;
- ▲ We have other policies that provide information for staff and students about things like anti-bullying and internet and e-safety;
- ▲ All staff go through a check to assess their suitability to work with young people;
- ▲ All staff are trained to recognise the signs of abuse and neglect and know what to do if they are concerned about a student's welfare;
- ▲ We encourage students to tell us when something is wrong;
- ▲ We respect all students as individuals and we don't tolerate discrimination of any kind;
- ▲ We give students information to help them keep safe;
- ▲ We do risk assessments to test whether any activity is going to be safe for students;
- ▲ We have a health and safety policy that covers such things as fire regulations, first-aid, food safety and in ensuring the school premises are safe for everyone;
- ▲ Mrs French, Mrs Agnew, Mrs Fisk, Mrs Lamacraft, Mrs Pearson and Mr Smillie have received special training in protecting children from abuse and neglect and they make sure the safeguarding procedures are followed;
- ▲ We work in partnership with parents and carers to keep you safe and provide them with information too;
- ▲ If necessary, we talk to other people such as social workers and police officers if we think a student has been harmed or might be harmed by an adult.



Top Tips for keeping yourself safe

Adults often take action to keep themselves safe and young people must also take action to keep themselves safe. Here are some ideas:

- ▲ Look confident. People are less likely to pick on you;
- ▲ Try to go places with friends. If you do go out alone always tell someone where you are going and what time you expect to be back;
- ▲ Talk to a trusted adult – someone in your family or someone at college – if anyone says or does anything that worries or frightens you;
- ▲ Carry a mobile phone and put emergency numbers – a parent or carer, a trusted adult or the police – on speed dial so you can make a call to them quickly;
- ▲ If you are taking a bus or train, make sure you have enough money for the return journey. Don't ever accept money from someone you've never met before.
- ▲ Don't accept a lift from someone you've never met before. Call someone to pick you up.
- ▲ Remember that alcohol and drugs can harm your health and can also encourage you to take unnecessary risks.



Mobile devices and computers are a part of everyday life for most young people. Used incorrectly or in the wrong hands, they can be a threat to your safety. So:

- ▲ Don't put up with abusive texts, photos or videos. Show them to an adult and make sure the person who sent them knows you are taking action;
- ▲ Don't lend your mobile phone to anyone unless its an emergency;
- ▲ Don't reveal your full name, address or phone number to people you meet on the internet;
- ▲ Don't let anyone online trick you into doing something against your wishes or something you know you shouldn't do;
- ▲ Remember that any emails or photos you upload to the internet can't be destroyed. They're there forever. Think before you post something you might later regret.
- ▲ You can report internet abuse at the click of a button on a really good website www.thinkuknow.co.uk



Share concerns

If you are ever concerned about your safety or wellbeing or about the safety of another student, you should talk to someone such as your parent or carer and/or a member of staff at The Spires College such as your Pastoral Support Manager, Tutor or Head of Year. You can also talk to a member of the Safeguarding team (Mrs French, Mrs Agnew, Mrs Fisk, Mrs Lamacraft, Mrs Pearson or Mr Smillie), our SENDCo Mrs Kolek or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Talking about a problem helps and if the problem cannot be resolved by the member of staff you have talked to, they will find other people to help.

Other useful contacts

If you do not feel that you can talk to someone at college you can contact the police on 101 or call 999 if it is an emergency.

<p>Help for children and young people is available from Childline on:</p> <p>0800 1111</p>	
<p>Online counselling for young people can be found at: www.kooth.com</p>	<p>The Samaritan are available to help by calling: 08457 909090</p>
<p>Talk to Frank – if you would like to know more information from the UK Government backed site covering all drug – related questions in a no nonsense frank way, you can call FRANK free, 24/7. Talk to Frank on 0800 776600</p>	

