

Safeguarding Update June 23

Dear Parents

Welcome to our **June WTBA** Safeguarding newsletter.

In this **June 2023** issue:

- Safeguarding team.
- What to do if pupils need to go home in the school day. Repeat...
- Social media influencers
- Parents' Guide to Youth Produced Sexual Imagery

Please update us with changes to phone numbers, address or emergency nominated contacts.

enquiries@tollbaracademy.co.uk or Tel: 01472 500 505

Safeguarding Team update



Keeping Children Safe

We are committed to keeping children safe and promoting the wellbeing of children at WTBA.

We expect staff, visitors, parents, pupils and contractors to share any concerns with our safeguarding team if they are worried about the safety and wellbeing of a child at WTBA.



Safeguarding

(ACTING) Designated Safeguarding Lead



J Haseldine
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Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



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Safeguarding Trustee/Link Governor



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Help outside of the Academy contacts:

www.walthamtollbaracademy.co.uk
Police 999
Social Care NEL 01472 326292 (option 2)
Chat Health 07507 331620
Kooth www.kooth.com/urgent-support
Childline 0800 1111. www.childline.org.uk

If you are concerned about the immediate safety and wellbeing of a child:

Visitors/Contractors



Report your concern to **reception** and ask them to contact the DSL or Deputy DSL **Immediately**.

Staff



Report your concern a member of the Safeguarding team **Immediately**.

Pupil



Report your concern a member of the Safeguarding team **Immediately** or if out of school hours use the help outside academy contacts

Safeguarding Team Summer Term 2023



R Abul-Hawa Y7



S Pauley Y8



N Billings Y9



R Watson Y10



D Wood Asst. Pm.



R Foster 6th Form



B Pharaoh Y7



P Dann Y8



R Cowe Y9



J Ward Y10



J Barker Y11



K Clorley 6th Form



J Finn Y8



R Shaw Y10



N Gabbitas 6th form



SaferNEL is a website which combines three key services to help safeguard children, adults, families and their community. We can signpost you to help...
<https://www.safernel.co.uk/family-parent-and-carer-support/family-relationships/>

At Waltham Toll Bar Academy

What is artificial intelligence (AI)?

Artificial intelligence is the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems. Specific applications of AI include expert systems, natural language processing, speech recognition and machine vision. AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity is increasing due to the likes of ChatGPT and more recently, My AI from Snapchat.



What should you be aware of? - Internet Matters have created a guide about using AI with your child and lists some popular AI tools that you should be aware of: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificialintelligence-ai-tools/> In addition, Childnet have produced this blog about Snapchat's My AI: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/snapchats-new-ai-chatbot-and-its-impact-on-young-people/>

Sending pupils home in the school day

What we ask students to do...

Unwell in the school day	Have been suspended.	Appointment in the school day.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a student feels unwell, they must let their teacher know. A student must also tell the teacher if their symptoms get worse. Feeling unwell doesn't have to be physical illness – if a student is worried or anxious which is making them feel unwell – a student must speak to a teacher or other trusted adult in school, ask for help; we will always help. Attend the medical centre when asked to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure you have written an account of what happened before you are collected. Wait with a member of senior staff/HOY/inclusion until it is time to be collected. Attend student services when the person collecting you arrives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remind form tutor on the day of the appointment. Ask teacher to check register to ensure they know you have an appointment. Attend student services at the collection time for your appointment and await collection.

What we ask parents to do...

Please do ensure that the nominated emergency contacts have for your child are up to date and feature people who have your trust to collect and supervise your child if they become unwell at school. You can update the emergency contact for your child by emailing enquiries@tollbaracademy.co.uk or Tel: 01472 500 505.

Child is unwell in school	Child suspended.	Appointment in the school day.
<p>If we contact you because your child is unwell, collect your child or make arrangements for a nominated emergency contact to help. Ensure your child is supervised by yourself/trusted adult when they are sent home.</p> <p>The school will not send a pupil home on their own if they are unwell – even if a parent asks us to do so. We have a duty of care as a school.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>Collect your child or make arrangements for a nominated emergency contact to help.</p> <p>The school will not send a pupil home on their own if they are unwell – even if a parent asks us to do so. We have a duty of care as a school.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>Inform us in advance by email enquiries@tollbaracademy.co.uk or Tel: 01472 500 505 Press Option 1 attendance line to inform us of an essential appointment. <i>Please tell us your child's name, form, time, date, venue of and reason for the appointment (e.g., Doctors/Hospital), collection time and who is collecting your child.</i></p> <p>The school will not send a pupil home on their own if they are unwell – even if a parent asks us to do so. We have a duty of care as a school.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p>Go to reception on arrival. Reception will check ID and direct you to the medical gate to collect your child. Medical team staff will escort the student to the gate.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>Go to reception on arrival. Reception will check ID and direct you to the student services gate to collect your child. Student services staff will escort the student to the gate.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>Collect your child or make arrangements for a nominated emergency contact to collect your child, to take them to and from the appointment. Go to reception on arrival. Reception will check ID and direct you to the student services gate to collect your child. Student services staff will escort the student to the gate.</p>
<p>Contact us if your child is to unwell to attend school the next day or if you are updating us on an emergency situation involving your child via enquiries@tollbaracademy.co.uk or Tel: 01472 500 505 Press Option 1 attendance line.</p> <p>If you have any doubts about your child's fitness to attend school, general advice for parents can be found here Is my child too ill for school? - NHS (www.nhs.uk)</p>	<p>Attend the reintegration meeting following the suspension with your child.</p>	<p>Upon return from an appointment in the school day, the student is to attend reception to sign back in school.</p>

Bikes: If a student came to school on a bike, it can be collected with the help of Custodians from the bike sheds when a student is collected, or arrangements can be made for it to be stored safely at the Academy until it can be transported home.

School Responsibilities

- The school **will not** send a pupil home on their own if they are unwell – even if a parent asks us to do so. This is because the risk to a child's safety and welfare if transporting themselves home is higher if they are unwell. We have a duty of care as a school.
- In exceptional circumstances, and only in agreement with the Parent and Principal, we may transport the student home in the school day in our supervised school transport and hand over the student to the parent/nominating emergency contact. *Typically, this would be where a parent has a registered disability and is physically unable to collect the student in the school day, or if the student is a young carer.*
- If a student is 18, we will ask permission from the student to share symptoms with parents. If a student of 18 wants to transport themselves home if they are ill, guidance will be provided on the safest course of action, in accordance with their symptoms.

Other exceptional Circumstances for absence in a school day

We appreciate that, exceptional circumstances occur from time to time, such as a death in the family. If the circumstances dictate that it is essential for you to collect your child from school due to an emergency or exceptional circumstances, parents/nominated emergency contacts must contact the school **Tel: 01472 500 505** to inform a senior member of staff/the students head of year and make arrangements providing as much information as possible. In such circumstances, after informing us of the situation, please attend reception and we will check ID of the parent or nominated emergency contact, then make arrangements for your child to be collected from the student services gate and signed out by student services. We ask that you keep us informed of when your child will return and keep us updated in relation to their wellbeing. We can often offer support in emergency or exceptional circumstances.

For any other absence such a sporting event, or a wedding, parents should use our leave of absence form www.walthamtollbaracademy.co.uk/leave-of-absence/ when applying for leave of absence for an event. This form can then be submitted by email enquiries@tollbaracademy.co.uk or to the Academy's postal address which is on our website.

When a student is registered for a part time/reduced fixed term timetable

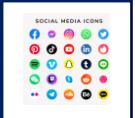
- We will set up a record of the agreement, reason for the reduction and instruction of the part time/reduced temporary timetable with Parents. This will include a clear indication of the start and end date of the agreement, the start and finish times, whether the student will be collected by parent/those with PR or agreement that the adjusted start and finish time means the student can independently travel to and from school.
- In this situation, written agreement from a parent that a student could travel home independently **is acceptable**, due to amended circumstances of start and finish time and in the absence of mitigating factors such as illness, medical need or suspension which could increase risk.
- If starting later than 9.15am, the student will **enter school via reception** after signing in.
- Students will be issued with a part time/reduced temporary timetable card/pass for the duration of the timetable amendment.
- Students **will not** be permitted to exit premises through main reception, under any circumstances.
- Students will attend student services and **depart via student services** nearest gate with exit supervision from the member of staff in student services.

Notes:

*1/ **Parental responsibility** is defined in the Children Act 1989 as "all the rights, duties, powers and responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his or her property". It equates to legal responsibility for the child. The child's mother automatically has parental responsibility for her child from birth. A father usually has parental responsibility if he is either: (a) married to the child's mother; or (b) listed on the birth certificate (after a certain date, depending on which part of the UK the child was born in). You can apply for parental responsibility if you do not automatically have it (for example in cases of adoption). Further information including information for same sex partners is also available here: <https://www.gov.uk/parental-rights-responsibilities/who-has-parental-responsibility>*

2/ As a school we cannot refuse to allow the child into the care of the person with parental responsibility, unless we have grave concerns about the child's welfare based on the behaviour or the school's knowledge of the parent, or we have sight of a court order confirming that parent no longer has PR (parental responsibility) and is not permitted to collect the child. In such circumstances the DSL or a member of senior staff in their absence would inform the adult of this decision and make the necessary referrals.

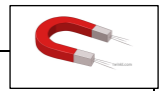
Social Media Influencers: *‘Young people need to be aware of ‘tricks with words’ that some influencers can use, including those that create a ‘them and us’ narrative and those that exploit youngsters’ fears or interests. It is important to hear the voices of young people. As parents having these conversations from a place of informed confidence is key.’*



What is an Influencer? An influencer is somebody prominent on a social media platform such as YouTube and Instagram, who have a high number of followers. Influencers share their opinions/ideas and may be paid to advertise/promote products through their account. Whilst there are some great influencers, there are some that choose to share their own opinions, which could be misogynistic or racist for example.

These opinions can be expressed or interpreted as fact. It is important to talk to your child about the spread of misinformation online and how we should fact check and critically analyse what we see and hear online. What we see on social media platforms is influenced by algorithms, which predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with. Whilst there are benefits of algorithms, it can mean that once we start looking at certain content, our social media feed can become more aligned with that opinion, so we don't see a balanced picture. You can find out more here: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/algorithms/>

You might have heard of social media influencer Andrew Tate, who's recently been in the news. We know that children are reading his messages and posts about violence towards women, and his views can be dangerous for both boys and girls. Read this factsheet so you're prepared and able to talk to your child about Andrew Tate and his opinions.



Why is he in the news?

In 2022, Andrew Tate was banned from YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok due to his controversial and misogynistic (hatred and discrimination against women) posts.

In December 2022, he was arrested in Romania along with his brother on suspicion of human trafficking, organised crime and rape.

How does this affect our children?

Andrew Tate, sometimes referred to as the 'king of misogyny', is a famous and influential figure on social media, even after being banned. He draws a lot of attention to his extreme wealth, luxury lifestyle and possessions, such as his expensive cars.

Children may still see his content and may believe that acting and thinking like he does will lead to fame, fortune and success.

He promotes ideas such as:

- Men are more important and more powerful than women.
- Violence against woman is okay.
- Men shouldn't show emotion.

He has said things like:

- "I think the women belong to the man".
- "[Women are] intrinsically lazy".
- "[There is] no such thing as an independent female".
- "Depression isn't real".
- "The hallmark of a real man is controlling himself, controlling his emotions, and acting appropriately regardless of how he feels".

What can we do as parents?

We are talking about tackling misogyny/toxic masculinity in school in assemblies and form time. However, children are less likely to listen to influencers such as Andrew Tate if they are having similar conversations reinforced at home.

We recommend you:

1. Read recent news articles about Andrew Tate, if you're not already familiar with him.
2. Ask your child what they're getting up to online – show genuine interest, don't judge them or tell them what they should and shouldn't be doing. Children are more likely to share if they feel you're interested, rather than trying to check up on them.
3. Have open discussions about Andrew Tate – don't tell your child how to think but question their thinking and understanding. Ask if they believe what Andrew Tate says, for example his comments that women "belong" to men, and how that might make the women in their lives feel, or they themselves feel. <https://www.bps.org.uk/news/how-talk-children-about-andrew-tate-and-other-toxic-views-online>
4. Be role models – encourage your child to be open with their emotions. Teach them that it's okay to cry if you're sad. Show respect for women and girls and encourage your child to model this behaviour.

Youth Produced Sexual Imagery: The Facts. A Guide for Parents

It is unlawful for a person under the age of 18 to create, possess and/or share sexual imagery of themselves with a peer under the age of 18 or adult over 18. Here's what parents need to know. YPSI is when someone makes, possesses and or shares sexual images or videos of themselves or others. Research shows that these images are typically shared on to and by people they do not know. These images can be sent using mobiles, tablets, smartphones, laptops, and any device that allows someone to share electronic media and messages. Photos and videos can be shared as text messages, emails, posted on social media or increasingly via mobile messaging apps, such as Snapchat, WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger or on gaming platforms including Discord.

The ease and speed of how children and young people can produce and share sexual self-imagery can be problematic, particularly as sharing sexual images may lead to them becoming vulnerable to bullying, embarrassment and sexual exploitation, particularly if the images are shared with others by the recipient. A great place to get advice about how to speak with your child about this topic can be found at...<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/sexting/protect-children-from-sexting/>

Youth Produced Sexual Imagery: What's the law?

Indecent photographs of children:

- under the Protection of Children Act 1978 (as amended), the UK has a strict prohibition on the taking, making, circulation, and possession with a view to distribution of any indecent photograph or pseudo photograph of a child and such offences carry a maximum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment

- section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 also makes the simple possession of indecent photographs or pseudo photographs of children an offence and carries a maximum sentence of 5 years' imprisonment

- there are defences for those aged over the age of consent (16) who produce sexual photographs for their own use within a marriage or civil partnership; these defences are lost if such images are distributed

We report all YPSI incidents to the Police and local authority and parents.

YPSI incidents can lead to disciplinary sanctions and intervention in school in addition to any police action.

Nude selfies: what parents and carers need to know

CEOP look at what to do if your child has shared a nude pic of themselves. The page includes four videos - understanding why your child has shared a pic, talking to your child, looking at when you should be worried and finally where you can get help from. Find out more here:



www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Nude-selfies-a-parents-guide/

Guide to legal term 'making'. This could include:



- opening an attachment to an email containing an image or accessing a website in which images appeared by way of an automatic "pop up" mechanism
- downloading an image from a website onto a computer screen
- storing an image in a directory on a computer

Sharing includes...



- sending on an email, WhatsApp, snapchat, text, gaming/file sharing platform or other social media platform.
- uploading to a site that other people have access such as discord.
- possessing with a view to distribute.

Here are some key sources of support for young people whose revealing image has been shared:

- Report to NCA-CEOP if you have any concerns about grooming, sexual abuse or exploitation at www.ceop.police.uk
- Contact us at school so that we can support your child and follow up the incident with other students who might have seen or shared the photo.
- Report the image to social networks it appears on, so that they will take it down quickly. Find out how to do this on some of the most popular sites at www.thinkuknow.co.uk/14_plus/help/contact-social-sites
- Report the image to the Internet Watch Foundation (iwf.org.uk) if you need help removing it from a site without a 'report' function.