

Safeguarding at Vale of York Academy - October 2024 update

Dear parents and carers,

We hope this message finds you well. We are pleased to share some updates regarding safeguarding at Vale of York Academy as we continue to foster a safe and supportive environment for our students.

Parent/carer spectators:

We are actively collaborating with the Trust, Senior Leadership Team, and PE Department to welcome parents back to school for sporting events. We anticipate sharing positive news in our November update. Your support means a lot to us, and we want all members of our community to feel connected and engaged.

Assemblies and working groups:

This month, we have delivered assemblies focusing on key topics such as discrimination for Black History Month, mental health awareness for World Mental Health Day, and sexual health for our Year 9, 10, and 11 students.

Additionally, we continue to facilitate a sexism and misogyny group for Year 10 students, led by Mrs. Cook, and have established a regular LGBTQ+ group to promote inclusivity and understanding.

School standards: Mobile phones and uniform

To ensure the safety of all students, we ask that phones remain switched off and stored in bags upon arrival at school. Please remind your child that if they need to contact you—or vice versa—it is best to do so through the school office. While we understand some students may use their phones for bus passes, our policy is designed to protect students from unauthorised photography and to minimize distractions.

We also maintain high uniform standards. Please ensure your child wears the required slipover and blazer. If you need assistance with this, do not hesitate to reach out to your child's Progress Leader. Additionally, makeup should be discreet; false eyelashes, nail varnish, and extensions are not permitted. For safety reasons, only small stud earrings should be worn—one in each ear. Any other jewellery is not permitted.

Online safety

At Vale of York, we prioritise online safety through our monitoring and filtering service provided by Smoothwall. This system helps us track and address any concerning online behaviour. We encourage you to discuss safe internet practices with your child. For more resources on online safety, please visit [Internet Matters](#).

Who to contact at Vale of York Academy:

Our dedicated safeguarding team is available to support you and your child. Please reach out to any of the following contacts with concerns or questions:

- Mrs Hirst - Designated Safeguarding Lead

- Mrs Cook - Education and Welfare officer
- Miss Lockwood - Attendance and safeguarding officer
- Miss Harris - Behaviour intervention lead
- Mr Donaldson - Deputy Safeguarding Lead
- Ms Mills - Principal

Your partnership is invaluable as we work together to keep our school community safe and thriving. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support.