

Safeguarding at Vale of York Academy - September 2024 update

Dear parents and carers,

Every month we will be issuing a safeguarding update so you are aware of the steps we are taking at Vale of York Academy to safeguard your children.

Parent/carer spectators:

First, I would like to apologise for the short notice regarding parents/carers coming onto school site to watch sporting events. We acknowledge that this has been common practice in the past but in light of new safeguarding guidance, we have made the decision, to safeguard staff and students still on property, to put a pause on this happening. We are working on putting together a protocol that will enable us to begin this again and as soon as we are in a position to do that we will write to you and let you know. At the moment however, parents and carers will not be allowed to come onto site to watch sporting events.

Assemblies:

This week, we have been delivering assemblies to all students about Prevent. We have explored what the Prevent programme is and how it helps people who become involved in supporting terrorism. We feel this is an important topic to inform all our students about so they are aware of all the support that is available. As a follow on from this, we will be exploring how we promote British Values within our lessons so we all have a sense of belonging in our Academy community.

We have a variety of topics coming up towards the end of this half term including, mental health and inclusivity. All of which we link directly to our core values of kindness, respect and teamwork. We want to ensure the support and information we provide for our students is second to none so every student feels like they can access help and support whenever they need it.

Mobile phones:

For safeguarding reasons, we do not allow students to use their phones whilst at school. All phones should be switched off and in bags as soon as students come on the school site. Please can you reinforce to your child that should they need to contact you during the day or if you need to contact them then the best way is to contact school directly and we will be able to pass on any messages. We know some students have bus passes on their phones and of course we want that to continue but during the day all phones should be off. The reason we do this is so we do not have photos/videos taken of our students without their consent.

Who to contact at Vale of York Academy:

We have a dedicated team at Vale of York who you can speak to if you are concerned about your child or have any questions about safeguarding within the school.

- Mrs Hirst - Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs Cook - Education and Welfare officer
- Miss Lockwood - Attendance and safeguarding officer
- Mr Donaldson - Deputy Safeguarding Lead
- Ms Mills - Principal

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any concerns.