

Altrincham College Student Friendly Safeguarding Policy

What is it?

This safeguarding policy is designed specifically for young people in Altrincham College; it can be read alongside the main school policy which can be found on the school website.

What is it for?

This policy is to help you understand what we mean by **safeguarding** and to show how we keep you safe in school. It is also designed to help you know how to keep yourself safe.

It is the responsibility of every member of staff, volunteer and visitor to our school to ensure that they work in a way that will safeguard and promote the welfare of all of the pupils at Altrincham College. This includes the responsibility to provide a safe environment in which you can learn. At Altrincham College, safeguarding means that we should:

- Protect you from harm;
- Make the school a friendly, welcoming and supportive place to spend time in – making it somewhere you want to be;
- Make sure nothing stops you being healthy or developing properly;
- Make sure you are safely looked after in school, during visits and trips;
- Support you to attend school every day and contact your parents/carers when you are not in school;
- Be there for you to talk to;
- Keep you informed of decisions that are made about you and include you in this decision making whenever possible;
- Have themed assemblies and lessons to raise awareness of the risks young people may face online and in the community;
- Train all staff to ensure everyone knows what their roles and responsibilities are to keep you safe;
- Complete risk assessments to ensure that all potential dangers in activities are identified and managed safely;
- Make sure you have the best life chances and can be happy and successful;
- Have all the right policies and procedures in place to help look after you.

Abuse

Abuse happens when a child is deliberately harmed by an adult or another child. It can happen over a period of time, or it can be a one-off action. There are four main types of abuse:

Physical - when someone deliberately hurts or harms a young person. Examples of this include hitting, kicking, biting, burning, breaking bones, shaking.

Sexual - when a young person is forced or tricked into sexual activities. You might not understand what is happening is abuse or that it is wrong. Sexual abuse can happen in person or online and doesn't always mean that someone has touched you physically. It could be that you have been exposed to sexual activity or that you were made to act in an inappropriate way.

Neglect – the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs. You might be left hungry or dirty, without proper clothing, shelter or supervision or may not be taken to see a doctor when you are ill. There may be lots of different reasons why a young person is neglected, and it is really important that we know so we can help you and your family.

Emotional – when someone deliberately tries to upset, scare, humiliate, isolate or ignore a young person. This could be someone in your family, a family friend or someone you are in a relationship with. It could also be a result of you seeing or hearing domestic abuse in your home. Abuse is never ok and if you are being or have been abused you must remember – it is not your fault.

Safety in School

All of the staff at Altrincham College will do their best to make sure the building is safe for you to spend time in. We will make sure that we know everyone in the school building and we will ask visitors to sign in at reception and explain the purpose of their visit. You will recognise a visitor to the school by the visitor badge they are required to wear. If you see an adult in school who is not wearing a visitor's badge, you must tell an adult immediately.

If the fire alarm sounds you should leave the building by the nearest fire exit. Your class teacher will lead you to the tennis courts, where you will line up as a form in silence. Your form tutor will complete a register to make sure everyone is safely out of the building. You must not re-enter the building until you have been told to do so by a member of staff.

On very rare occasions, we may need to keep you safe in classrooms whilst your teachers deal with an incident in school. For this reason, we have SHELTER and CLOSE.

The SHELTER signal is one long tone. You will stay in your classroom and continue as usual, but your teacher will lock the door and close the blinds and windows.

The CLOSE signal is a wailing siren. You will need to move sensibly to the most non-visible part of the classroom and remain very quiet.

We will practice SHELTER and CLOSE several times a year, but we will ALWAYS tell you and your parents when this is going to happen. You will also go through what will happen and listen to the tones with your form teacher before each practice in school so you know what to expect.

What we will do

At Altrincham College we will help you in the following ways:

- We will listen to you with an open mind and take you seriously;
- We will support and encourage you and will respect your wishes and views;
- We will provide a safe space for you to talk about anything that is worrying you;

- We will work with your parents or carers as well as other agencies to contribute to and develop a plan of support.
- We will develop an interesting and relevant RSHE program, to teach you about how to keep yourself safe

Designated Safeguarding Lead

In Altrincham College you can talk to any member of staff, but you should know there are some particular staff who are responsible for your safeguarding. These staff are known as Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Mrs Hudson Kirkham and Miss Duffley are your DSLs. All of your Pastoral Managers and SLT have been trained to a very high level in Safeguarding too, so you can also go and speak to them.

It is important that you know:

- It is never your fault if someone is hurting or abusing you;
- There is always someone who can help you;
- If someone is hurting you, they might also be hurting someone else so it is important that you tell someone to make it stop;
- Every child should enjoy their right to a happy and safe childhood. **DON'T BE SCARED TO TELL SOMEONE, WE WILL ALWAYS LISTEN.** If you don't feel you can speak to an adult, you can ask a friend to do this for you.

Bullying

This is deliberate behaviour, repeated and over time which intentionally hurts someone. It can be:

Physical: Hitting, kicking, tripping, pinching, pushing, taking another's belongings or damaging property.

Psychological: Intimidation, lying, spreading rumours, being unfriendly, excluding, damaging social reputation or social acceptance.

Racial: Racial taunts, graffiti, gestures.

Homophobic, Biphobic & Transphobic: Bullying specifically related to LGBTQ+ issues including name calling, physical abuse, sexual harassment and spreading rumours. Can also include threats to "out" a young person.

Sexual: Explicit sexual remarks, display of sexual material, sexual gestures, unwanted physical attention, comments about sexual reputation or performance, or inappropriate touching

Verbal: Name-calling, sarcasm, teasing, insults, verbal abuse

Cyber-bullying: Bullying that takes place through digital technology, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites.

If you think you or someone you know is being bullied, talk to your parents, carers or someone at school so they can help it to stop. You can talk to your form teacher, Pastoral Manager or Head of Year. You can also report it on **Whisper**.

Grooming

Grooming is when someone builds a relationship to gain your trust and make an emotional connection with you to try and manipulate, exploit and abuse you in different ways. They may want to use you to sell drugs, carry weapons, have sex or hurt other people for them.

Grooming can take place either be online or in person. It can include older people giving you lots of attention and presents. If you are worried that you or someone you know may be at risk of being groomed, talk to your parents, carers or someone at school so they can help it to stop.

County lines

This involves gangs and organised criminal networks exporting illegal drugs around the country. These criminals target young people using tactics such as intimidation, threats and violence to make them move or store drugs and money. Young people often become victims of physical and sexual abuse and can be forced to leave their homes and be moved to areas a long way from their families, this is known as trafficking.

If you are worried that you or someone you know may be targeted or involved, talk to your parents, carers or someone at school so they can help.

Online

There are lots of positives about being online, but we need to be aware of the negatives too. Computers and mobile phones help us all to share things and talk to our friends and family, but this can also make it easier for other people who may want to hurt you, to get close to you or exploit you. It is important to remember that nothing disappears from the internet. Once you hit SEND you can't get it back.

NEVER:

- Share personal information with people you don't know;
- Share nude or semi-nude photographs with anyone;
- Post images or videos of yourself wearing your school uniform;
- Agree to meet up with people you only know online.

Altrincham College has an e-safety policy which is there to protect you. If anything at all makes you even slightly unhappy or uncomfortable, then you should talk to someone. This could be your parent, a family member or a member of staff at school.

You can also contact www.thinkuknow.co.uk and report any online grooming to CEOP <https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/> . If you make a mistake and share a nude image of yourself online, you can use the “Report Remove” tool from the NSPCC to try and get it removed from the internet. <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>

Whisper

- Whisper is a system we use in school so you can tell us if you or a friend are unsafe. It is anonymous, which means the teacher who reads the alert does not know who sent it. It allows us to support our students who are at risk of being harmed. Whisper is very easy to use. You can text the following number - 07860 021 323 ACA1 [+ your message] or go online and find the website <https://swgfl.org.uk/whisper/aca1/>

Useful Numbers and Websites

- Childline 0800 11 11 <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/our-services/childline>
- NSPCC – 0808 800 5000 www.nspcc.org.uk
- Talk to Frank www.talktofrank.com
- Children’s rights in England – rights4children www.rights4children.org.uk
- Whisper Text 07860 021 323 ACA1 [+ your message] or <https://swgfl.org.uk/whisper/aca1/>
- CEOP <https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/>
- Report Remove <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>
- Kooth <https://www.kooth.com/>