

## Safeguarding your Children and Young People Information for Parents & Carers

Please check out our safeguarding page on our website:

<https://www.westfieldacademy.co.uk/about-us/safeguarding.htm>

There is a host of information, advice and links to excellent websites to offer support and guidance.



If you need to contact the safeguarding team at Westfield Academy please use the reporting form on our website or use the following email address: [safeguarding@westfieldacademy.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@westfieldacademy.co.uk) This will be monitored by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead only during normal school hours.

**IF URGENT AND THE YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK OF HARM PLEASE CALL the Police on 999 or Children's Social Care (Somerset Direct) on Tel:0300 123 2224. Out of hours service please call the Emergency Duty Team on Tel:0300 123 2327.**

## Mental Health Support in School

The mental & emotional health and wellbeing of our students is paramount. We are incredibly fortunate to receive the support and service from the 'Mental Health Support Team' who will commence their work in our school in the summer term. They are an early intervention service which provides a low level of support.

The mental health support team can provide support for: low mood, panic, panic and agoraphobia, generalised anxiety/worry, mild social anxiety, simple phobias (not related to blood, vomit or needles), sleep problems and stress management.

Practitioners are from Young Somerset, they have completed specific year long training to complete the interventions with our students. The practitioners are trained to work using low intensity cognitive behaviour therapy - guided self help. The interventions are normally 6-8 sessions long and initially these sessions will take place virtually on a 1:1 basis, however, with COVID restrictions gradually being lifted we are hoping to see our practitioners in school meeting students and completing sessions in the future.

All interventions require motivation / readiness to change. Students will need to complete work between sessions and they need to be able to engage in the work they are doing with them - our students will need to have an awareness of their thoughts and behaviours.

We are also lucky enough to secure the services of a fully trained experienced school counsellor who will be starting with us this Friday, 11 June 2021.

Referrals to these services will be made by school staff, in the main heads of year and the safeguarding team.



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### Social worker in School

As part of the Government initiative, 'Social Workers in School' programme, we have been fortunate to have been allocated a social worker, Hattie Cornish, who will work in school every Monday & Thursday throughout term time for a period of up to 12 months. Hattie's brief is initially based around child exploitation.

Hattie will contribute to our PSHE (personal, social, health & economic) curriculum, she will offer her expertise to the safeguarding team and will be available to meet any students or staff who wish to do so.

This is a really exciting new initiative which can only benefit our whole school community. Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and requires effective joint working with all agencies to ensure the best outcomes for all our young people.



### Looking to the future...

We are hopefully slowly working towards COVID restrictions being lifted and getting school life back to 'normal' including students being able to enjoy all extracurricular activities.

Thank you to all parents & carers for all your ongoing support in these difficult times, it does not go unnoticed and massively contributes to the safety and wellbeing of our young people.

