



SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

SAFEGUARDING EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Designated safeguarding Leads

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Useful numbers

Childline	0800 1111
Wigan Safeguarding Hub	01942 486262
Wigan Social care Referral and Assessment team	01942 828 300

Cyber Bullying

LUCY Alexander, the mum of Worcester teenager Felix who took his own life after being bullied online, has penned this powerful open letter:

"April 27th 2021 marks five years since losing Felix. My beautiful 17-year-old son took his own life, as he could no longer see a way to be happy.

"After his death I wrote an open letter to Worcester News as his unhappiness stemmed from years of unkind behaviour, both in person and online, and I felt compelled to try to give him the voice that he did not feel he had.

"My letter was an appeal for kindness in an increasingly unkind world. The advent of social media has meant that everyone has an audience where they can vent their opinion without censure or filter. I wanted to try to help people, particularly young people, connect the dots of their online actions to the very real-life consequences. Their thoughtless words may very well be someone else's last straw.

"During the last five years I have collaborated with the charity Place2Be and am very proud to be an ambassador for them. This charity supports young people in schools so that issues that develop in childhood are recognised and dealt with so that they have a good chance of a happier, healthier adult life. I truly believe that children are not inherently bad and there is always a reason for bad behaviour. Early intervention can help children understand their behaviour and help guide them towards better choices. My ultimate aim is to bring a hub for Place2Be to Worcestershire so that children, parents and teachers can be better supported in school.

"BBC Hereford and Worcester helped me launch Felix's Campaign of Kindness which began at Pershore High School where Felix attended the sixth form. I talked to the school as a whole about bullying behaviour, what it entails and what they can do to stop other young people feeling the way Felix did. This has led me to talk in dozens of other schools and Felix's story seems to have had a really positive impact on pupils and their understanding of unkind behaviour and how to support each other.

Above is an extract of an open letter a mother, who's son ended his life after years of unkind behaviour, wrote in the Worcester News.

It saddens us all when we see pupils treating each other so unkindly using social media and other means and not considering the consequences of their actions. The work Lucy has done in raising awareness of this topic is outstanding and will be an amazing legacy for her treasured son Felix.

Safeguarding Awareness Week 16 - 22 May

Safeguarding Awareness Week is an opportunity to look at all aspects of safeguarding within our schools. This year, understandably, the emphasis is on Sexual Harassment, which is a topical issue.

Examples of sexual harassment include:

- flirting, gesturing or making sexual remarks about someone's body, clothing or appearance
- asking questions about someone's sex life
- telling sexually offensive jokes
- making sexual comments or jokes about someone's sexual orientation or gender reassignment
- displaying or sharing pornographic or sexual images, or other sexual content
- touching someone against their will, for example hugging them sexual assault or rape

As a school it is our responsibility to teach the children that any of the above are not okay. We do this through a robust PSHE programme along with specialist support from agencies such as Spectrum and Talk, Listen, Change.

Pupils have to understand that there is no place for any of the above in the school environment. We have a duty of care to ensure that the values pupils' learn in school they then take on into the work place when they are Older.

More information on Sexual Harassment can be found on the NSPCC website.

Radicalisation

We are coming up to the anniversary of the bombing at Manchester Arena on 22nd May 2017. There was an interesting documentary that showed the process of radicalisation of Salman Abadi.

Schools play a vital role in spotting the signs of radicalisation. Things to look out for.

Radicalisation can be really difficult to spot. Signs that may indicate a child is being radicalised include:

- isolating themselves from family and friends
- talking as if from a scripted speech
- unwillingness or inability to discuss their views
- a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- increased levels of anger
- increased secretiveness, especially around internet use.

Children who are at risk of radicalisation may have low self-esteem, or be victims of [bullying](#) or discrimination. Extremists might target them and tell them they can be part of something special, later brainwashing them into cutting themselves off from their friends and family.

However, these signs don't necessarily mean a child is being radicalised – it may be normal teenage behaviour or a sign that something else is wrong.

Children are less likely to become radicalised if they feel included and part of something. If a school is concerned that a pupil may become radicalised they are referred to a Channel Panel. This assesses what good can happen within the pupil's life that may stop them becoming an extremist

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact Mrs Bolton on 01942726842 or safeguarding@golbornehigh.wigan.sch.uk