



# SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

SAFEGUARDING EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

## Designated safeguarding Leads

Alison Bolton  
Gillian Hayes  
Andrea Hickey

## Useful numbers

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

# Contextualised Safeguarding

## Contextual Safeguarding

is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. Traditional approaches to protecting children/young people from harm have focussed on the risk of violence and abuse from inside the home, usually from a parent/carer or other trusted adult and don't always address the time that children/young people spend outside the home and the influence of peers on young people's development and safety.

Contextual safeguarding recognises the impact of the public/social context on young people's lives, and consequently their safety. Contextual safeguarding seeks to identify and respond to harm and abuse posed to young people outside their home, either from adults or other young people. It's an approach that looks at how interventions can change the processes and environments, to make them safer for all young people, as opposed to focussing on an individual.

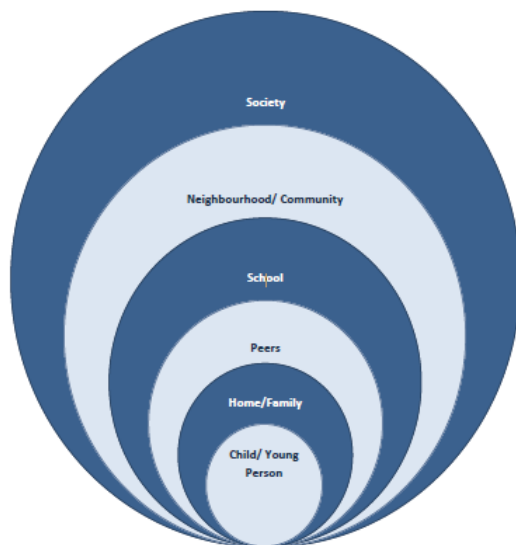
Research undertaken in London illustrates that young people's experience is not only influenced by their family, but also by their peer network, wider community and society in general.

## Contextualised Safeguarding at Golborne High School

This means understanding the social and environmental factors that can pose a risk to our pupils. This can be something simple as not having enough to occupy our pupils within the local community to understanding the wider risks that may present to teenagers such as drugs that may be available locally and where the pupils go in the evening where there may be a risk of alcohol mis-use and therefore peer to peer abuse.

The weekly Huddle meetings help us to understand contextual safeguarding by all agencies participating in discussing problems that exist locally and solutions that are available to help. More information regarding the Huddle can be gained from either of the Pastoral Support Leaders

Model of Contextual Safeguarding



adapted from Firmin (2015).

# Bullying

The definition of bullying is when an individual or a group of people with more power, repeatedly and intentionally cause hurt or harm to another person or group of people who feel helpless to respond. Bullying can continue over time, is often hidden from adults, and will probably continue if no action is taken.

While the bullying definition is broad and can occur in a variety of environments it usually is a relationship problem and requires relationship-based solutions. These are best solved in the social environment in which they occur: in a child or young person's life, this is most often the school.

What bullying is not

- single episodes of social rejection or dislike
- single episode acts of nastiness or spite
- random acts of aggression or intimidation
- mutual arguments, disagreements or fights.

These actions can cause great distress. However, they do not fit the definition of bullying, and they're not examples of bullying unless someone is deliberately and repeatedly doing them.

In order for school to combat bullying we need to know it is happening. Therefore, as hard as it may be the best thing to do is to tell a trusted adult. That may be a child's form teacher or parent or friend. If the school know something has happened then they can deal with it in a way that empowers the victim and in line with what they want. The school will never put any victim of bullying in a position where they feel out of control or wishing they had never told anyone. In most cases when an action is pointed out to a perpetrator of bullying they are not aware of the upset it has caused the victim. In a small number of cases the school will inform parents of the incident and put rigid sanctions in place. In all situations the victim and their parents will be kept fully informed of outcomes.

The school has an anti-bullying policy which outlines what will happen in the event of any bullying behaviour and there is also lots of help and support for teachers, pupils and parents at the NSPCC website as well as Stonewall and the Anti-Bullying Alliance. If you are concerned a child is being bullied please contact a Head of House, Pastoral Support Leader or Mrs Bolton