

Safeguarding & Wellbeing update Information for Parents & Carers

Please check out our safeguarding and wellbeing pages 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 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.

Attendance

Good attendance and punctuality are essential if students are to achieve their maximum potential at school. Establishing good routines and ensuring your child is in school every day on time is vital to support their attainment & regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for their mental health & wellbeing.

There is currently a major national drive to improve school attendance. Recent HM Government statistics prove the link between attendance and attainment is clear:

In 2018/19 only 36% of persistently absent children gained GCSE grades above a 4 compared to 84% of regular attenders.

It is never too late to benefit from good attendance - 54% of students who were persistently absent in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11 passed at least 5 GCSEs compared to only 36% of students who were absent in both years.

We would not expect any parent/carer to send their child to school if they were genuinely unwell however, keeping your child off school with minor ailments such as a headache, sore throat or slight cold is discouraged. If your child becomes more unwell in school they will be sent to the medical room whereby a trained member of staff will assess them and will call the parent/carer as necessary.

If your child is too unwell for school please report this daily via the [Google form](#).

Leave of absence

The law does not grant parents the automatic right to take their child out of school during term time.

Our school policy does not encourage a leave of absence. Statistics prove the following:

95% attendance = 9.5 days off in a year which equates to 2 weeks / 50 lessons missed.

90% attendance = 19 days off in a year which equates to 4 weeks / 100 lessons missed.

[DfE Working Together to improve attendance parents responsibilities](#)

Please find our attendance policy [here](#)



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Children's Mental Health Week 5-11 February

Children's mental health week is a mental health awareness week that seeks to empower, equip and give a voice to all children and young people in the UK. This year's theme is 'My voice matters'. My voice matters is about empowering young people by providing them with tools they need to express themselves. When we feel empowered there is a positive impact on our wellbeing.

The Safeguarding team will be completing assemblies during this week, ably assisted by some of the newly trained student wellbeing champions, who will explain their role in helping to support & signpost their peers.

We will be running a 'help desk' all week at lunchtimes in the upper school hall where students can obtain useful information, resources & signposting to support around mental health & wellbeing.

As parents/carers you play an important role in your child's mental health - please find below [useful top tips and conversation starters here](#)

WHAT WAS THE BEST
THING ABOUT TODAY?

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST
STRESS / WORRY IN YOUR
LIFE RIGHT NOW?

WHO WOULD YOU TALK
TO IF YOU WERE FEELING
WORRIED ABOUT YOUR
MENTAL HEALTH?



Online Safety

The internet is one of the greatest creations and provides anyone who accesses it an instant & endless supply of knowledge and entertainment. There are so many positives but we tend to focus on the negatives. You only know too well how tricky it can be to separate your children from their mobiles! We want to work in partnership to support you to support your children to safely navigate their devices.

Did you know the age restrictions to create accounts on the below platforms?

Instagram / Facebook / Tiktok / Snapchat / YouTube/ Twitter - 13 years+
Whatsapp - 16 years+

Have conversations with your child around the basics; show an interest and ask them to show you what they are accessing...Ask them how they stay safe and what is ok and not ok to share...Ensure they know how to report / block and use privacy settings and have these conversations regularly.



As parents/carers you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online. You do not need to be an expert there are lots of resources and advice to help you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibly and positively.

For a wealth of information, advice and support please access the below links:

[Safer Internet - parents & carers](#)

[Online content - tips to keep your children safe online](#)

[NSPCC online safety advice](#)

[ThinkUKnow](#)