

What's in the News?

We are all aware of the recent violence and tragic murder of a 15 year old child in West Bromwich. This tragedy has made us all reflect, as parents, families and educators. In our reflection we thought it was important that we share with you some of the key points we have found that may help keep our children safer, and help you as parents and Carers with practical advice on things *you* can do to help keep your children safe when they are out in the community.

10 Tips for keeping your children safe.

1. **Know their apps:** Get to know the apps your children are using, so you can understand how to support them in reporting harmful content.
2. **Know their log-ins and Usernames:** It is perfectly safe and reasonable to have discussions with your children about their online presence. Who do they follow? What pages do they look at? Who are their influence?
3. **Check their settings: Check their online and physical settings.** Are their accounts private? If not, that means anyone, adult or child can access information and images of your child. Are you both ok with that? Is there anything in their room that shouldn't be there? Anything that worries you? If you are unsure talk to us.
4. **What are your digital boundaries?** How much time online is ok with you? Talk about it, negotiate, and understand how much time they are actually spending online, and doing what?
5. **Age Limits:** Is your child old enough to use the apps they have access to? Many apps have age restrictions as they may contain content that is harmful or inappropriate.
6. **What's the plan?** When your child is leaving the house. Do you know where they are going? Who with and what time they will be home? Is their phone charged? How will they get home? Ask them to share their location with you, so you know. This can be done on **WhatsApp, Snapchat** or **Imessage** for free.
7. **Do they feel safe?** The world is changing and our young people are telling us that safety is important to them. What does 'being safe' mean to them? What do they do to 'stay safe'? Who are their 'safe people'? Where are there 'safe places'?
8. **Safety planning:** If something happens when they are in the community, talk to them about where they can go for help. Alert an Adult, call 999 and Go to a safe, public Location and ask an adult for help. Stay Calm, and call home.
9. **You can only know what you know!** The world of social Media is always changing, as trusted adults, we **MUST** make it our business to understand what are children are doing online. To help, we have a dedicated parent tab on our Website with lots of helpful guides on keeping children safe and FREE Online courses that you can access from home. [Parent Information - Sandwell Community School \(sandwellcs.org.uk\)](https://sandwellcs.org.uk)
10. **Talk to us:** We may not be experts, but we will work with you to keep your children safe and find answers to your questions. You can call the school at anytime and speak to a Head of Centre or a member of our safeguarding team [Safeguarding - Pastoral Team - Sandwell Community School \(sandwellcs.org.uk\)](https://sandwellcs.org.uk)



What are school doing?

What we are doing as a school, is not just in response to the recent violence, but as part of what we do, and by continually working together (and sharing information) we create a culture of safety.....so it is important for us to take a lead in this, and not to treat it as taboo - ***this is real and needs everyone working together, to keep our children safe.***

1. We are reviewing our **searching and confiscation policy**, to make clear that layers will not be accepted in school due to the increased risk of concealment of prohibited or banned items.
2. We will also be making it explicitly clear to parents/Carers and students within the policy that if we receive intelligence of weapons and or other prohibited items being placed outside of the school grounds we will search the locality and if found the items will removed, confiscated and logged with our safeguarding team and police.
3. We are conducting daily Sweeps outside of school grounds and in local foliage in neighboring green spaces for prohibited items.
4. In response to our students need to feel safe and provide safety for them in the community we are working with community partners on a range of targeted interventions
5. **St Johns ambulance** 'Street Medics' , will be coming into school this term to deliver street first aid to students so they have the skills and knowledge to act should they be on the scene of an injury or cardiac arrest in the community.
6. Our ongoing partnership work with the **Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP)** continues. They are continuing to come in to work with KS3 boys on challenging violence against women and girls
7. We are beginning a new and innovative piece of work with **Horizons** Sandwell Children's exploitation prevention service. They will be completing small group sessions with a girls and boys group with students we have concerns about that do not meet threshold for a high level of intervention. This is a pivotal piece of work as more and more across Sandwell we are seeing young people affected by serious youth violence who are not known or currently open to services.
8. We are planning a **SHAPE day 26/4/24** where we will collapse the timetable for a full day and have a carousel of events going on across the school for all students to participate in. This will give them a safe and contained space, to discuss their lived experience in the community, feelings and perceptions of safety, online safety, dynamic safety planning, knife crime awareness sessions, and emotional wellbeing workshops.
9. Our school Police officers PC Ismail and PC Littler are in school regularly to support us.
10. We have developed an online feedback form that you can access at any time using the QR code and your phone.

We are here to help, please do get in touch if you have any questions and explore the [school website](#) as we have a lot of useful information and guidance available for free.

Please scan the QR code, leave any comments or questions you may have. This form is a way for you to leave comments and Questions for Sandwell Community Leaders. We want you to be able to leave us comments and feedback in a way that is accessible to you.

If your comment or question is about the safety or wellbeing of a student or member of staff, please contact our safeguarding team, rather than using this form. If your comment is about the immediate safety of someone, call 999.

Parents/ Carers and Visitor
Comments and Questions



How well do you know your socials?

