

# The Appleton School



## Safeguarding Newsletter – Issue 9 (March 2025)

Welcome to the March edition of our Safeguarding Newsletter. At The Appleton School, safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our students is not just a responsibility - it is a commitment we all share. By working together - staff, parents, students and the wider community - we can create an environment where every young person feels secure, supported, and empowered to thrive. This was once again recognised by Ofsted in November 2024 –

**“There is a welcoming culture in this school. Staff develop positive relationships with pupils. They know the pupils very well. This ensures pupils are happy and feel safe here.”**

**“Pupils are taught to stay safe and healthy through a well-considered personal development provision.”**

**“The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.”**

These findings are backed up by the overall feeling amongst students that they ‘feel safe’ at our school when asked to complete student surveys.

Our goal is to provide a safe and nurturing space where every student can fully embody our core values of Resilience, Community, Respect and Aspiration.

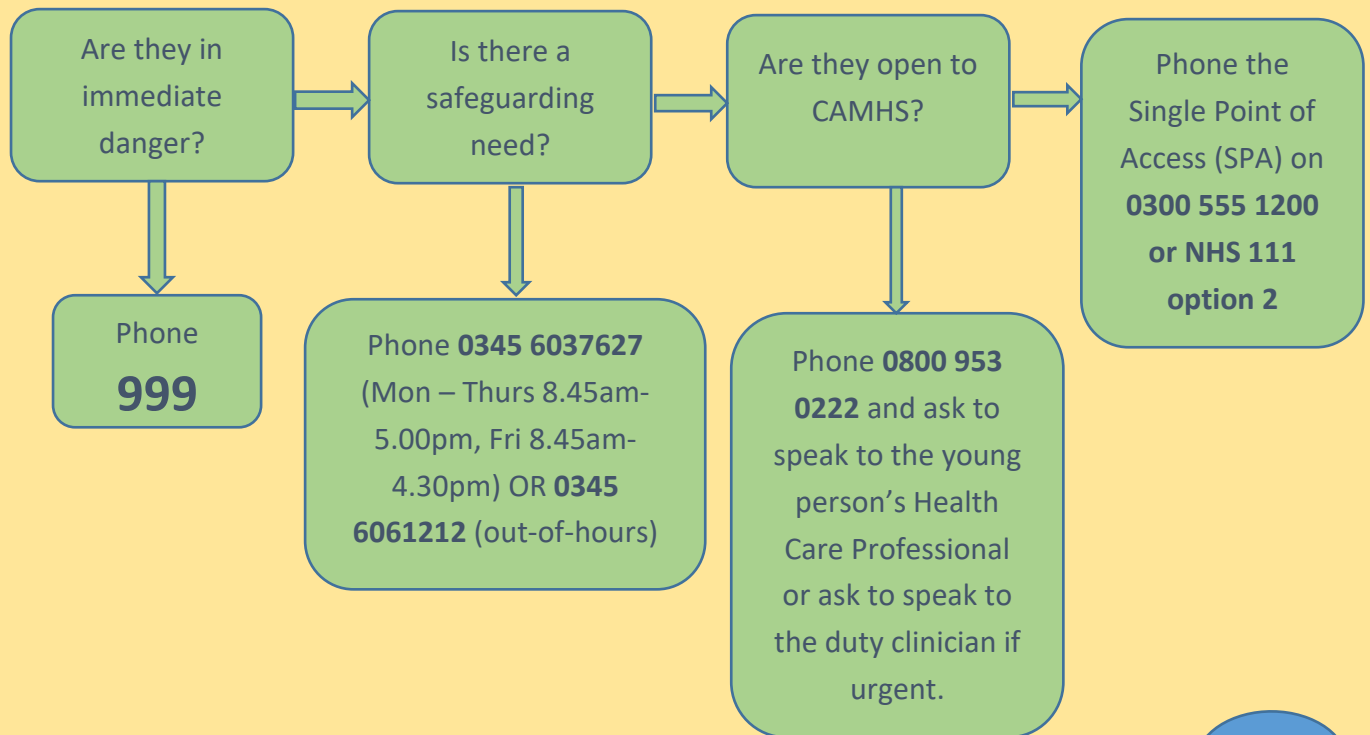


In this addition, we will share key updates, guidance, and resources to help safeguard our students both in and outside of school. Together, we can continue to build a school community where every child feels safe, heard, and ready to succeed.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Stockdale  
Assistant Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead

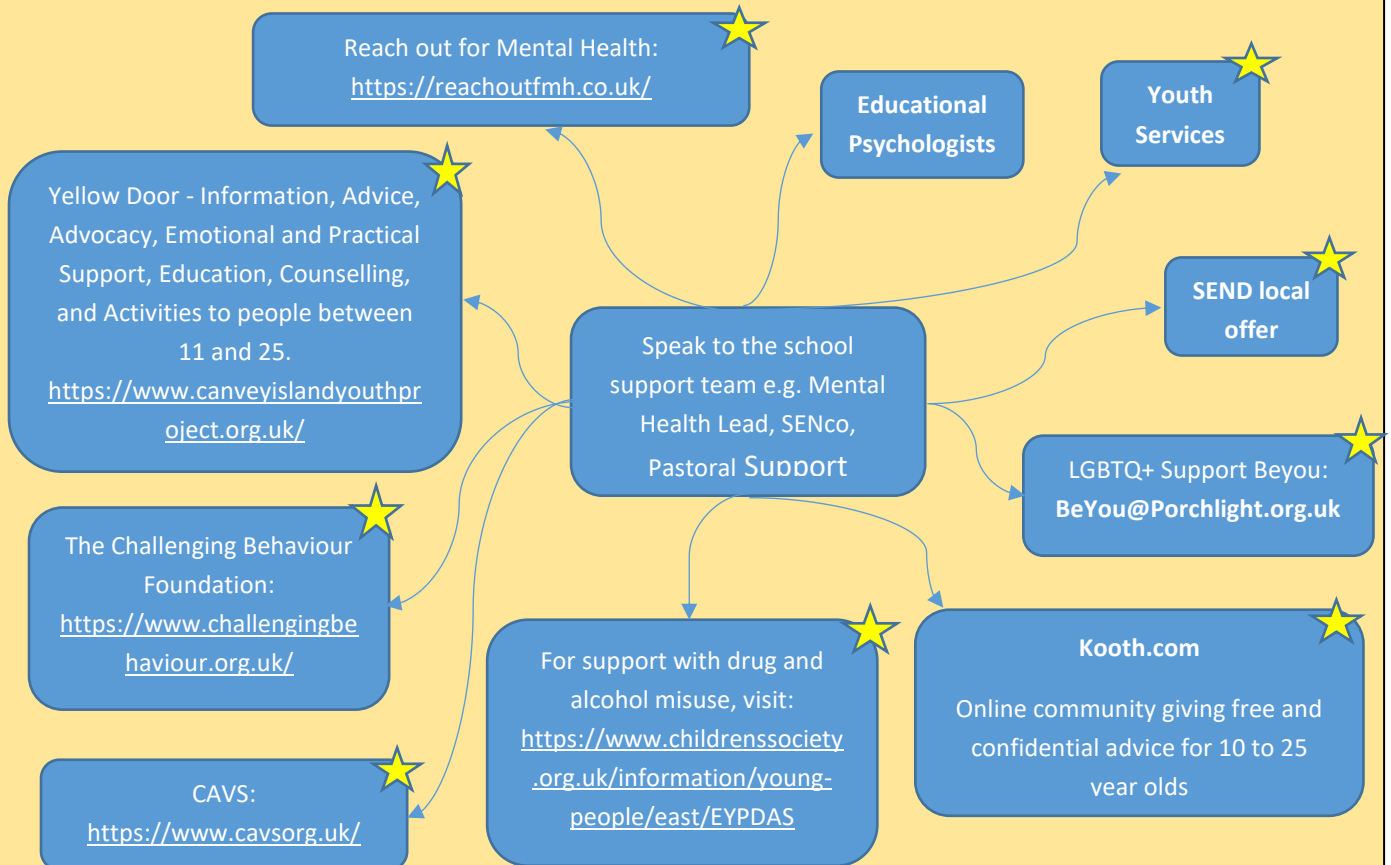
## Concerned about a child or young person's thoughts, feelings or behaviour?



**Would advice and extra support from our school be useful?**

**Is it the first time they have experienced it and it doesn't impact their day-to-day living?**

Children who attend school should speak to the schools support team as they will be able to signpost accordingly. Children not attending school can make a direct referral to those marked with



## Knife Crime

Knife Crime is a growing concern in many communities across the country, and it is something we all need to be aware of. At The Appleton School, we are committed to ensuring that every young person understands the dangers of carrying a knife and the serious consequences it can bring. By working together, we can help keep our children safe.

### The Reality of Knife Crime

Many young people believe that carrying a knife will protect them, but the truth is very different. Statistics show that:

- ❖ Carrying a knife increases the risk of being harmed. A young person is more likely to be injured with their own weapon
- ❖ The law is strict. It is illegal to carry a knife in public without a valid reason, even if it's for self defence
- ❖ There are serious consequences. Being caught with a knife can lead to a criminal record, affecting future education and job opportunities
- ❖ Knives destroy lives. A single moment of violence can have devastating and lifelong effects on families and communities.

### The Law on Knife Crime

The law in the UK is clear:

- ❖ It is illegal for anyone under 18 to buy a knife
- ❖ It is illegal to carry a knife in public without a valid reason, such as work-related use
- ❖ Carrying a knife can lead to a prison sentence of up to 4 years, even if it has not been used.

### Why Do Some Young People Carry Knives?

There are many reasons why a young person might feel pressured to carry a knife, including:

- ❖ Fear – they believe it will protect them
- ❖ Peer Pressure – friends or gang members encourage it
- ❖ Status – they think it makes them look tough.

### How Can Parents Help?

- ❖ Talk openly – have honest conversations about the risks and consequences
- ❖ Know the signs – changes in behavior, new friends, or secretive actions may be warning signs
- ❖ Encourage safe choices – support your child in finding positive activities and friendships
- ❖ Seek Support – if you are concerned, contact the school or local authorities for guidance.

Knife crime is not just a police issue – it's a community issue. By educating and supporting our young people, we can prevent them from making dangerous decisions. If you need any advice or support, please reach out to our safeguarding team.

For more support, advice and guidance for parents please visit: <https://benkinsula.org.uk/resources-for-parents/>



## How to report

If you have any concerns about the well-being or safety of a young person in Essex, it is important to reach out to the appropriate authorities who can provide help and support.

You can contact the Children & Families Hub at **0345 603 7627** who can provide information, advice and guidance to support families. They are equipped to handle welfare concerns and can offer guidance, support, and intervention if necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of the child. Remember, taking action can make a significant difference in a young person's life.

### Essex Police

We understand that it can be difficult to report intimate image abuse to the police. Their officers are well trained and are there to listen and support your child in any way they can.

You can report intimate image abuse to Essex Police:

<https://www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/> or call **101**

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>

## *Who to contact if you have a concern about a child*

If you are worried about a child's safety please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

They can be contacted via the school office ([safeguarding@theappletonschool.org](mailto:safeguarding@theappletonschool.org)), or by telephone on 01268 794215.

The school also has an online reporting mechanism which can be found on the school website:



### NEVER ACCEPTABLE

Please note that this service is accessible 24hrs. Any report will be actioned Monday-Fridays 7am-6pm during the school term. In the case of an emergency, please ring 999 or the other contacts provided on our safeguarding pages.

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If you have any concerns about the safety and/or welfare of a child or young person, telephone the Children and Families Hub on **0345 603 7627** (Mon-Thurs 8:45am-5.15pm, Fri 8.45am-4.30pm) or outside these hours on **0345 606 1212**.

If a child is in immediate danger, call the **Police** immediately on **999**