

Safeguarding Newsletter

Spring Term 1 2025



This half termly newsletter has been focused around general safeguarding matters and information to support families.

The Safeguarding Leadership Team.



Mrs Wilkinson



Mrs West

You can reach the Safeguarding Leadership team at

safeguarding@tggsacademy.org

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK TGGS 3rd – 7th FEBRUARY

This Year's theme was - **KNOW YOURSELF, GROW YOURSELF.** Students spent the week exploring this theme in assemblies, their tutor time Social, Moral, Spiritual, Cultural (SMSC) activity and enjoyed a showing of Inside Out 2. Inside Out 2 linked with 'Place2be' for this week to use the characters in the film to help young people explore their emotions. We also asked students to complete a book of tips for anyone who is feeling a certain emotion and how they may be able to manage this, be it Joy, Disgust, Sadness, Anxiety, Embarrassment, Boredom, Anger or Fear. As a reminder parents and students can access many resources on our wellbeing page [Torquay Girls Grammar School - Wellbeing](#)



Improving children's mental health

[Improving children's and young people's mental health – Place2Be](#)

Domestic Abuse

Since the domestic abuse act 2021, children have been recognised as victims of domestic abuse rather than just witnesses. Mrs Wilkinson and Mrs West are both domestic abuse champions and have access to a wide range of support for families through the 'reducing the risk' platform. Domestic abuse champions are individuals trained to recognise and support those experiencing domestic abuse. They form part of a growing and dynamic network of people who share a common language and knowledge around domestic abuse, and support people to safety.

In addition to this, there is a huge support network within Torbay to support families who are experiencing domestic abuse. This network, called Standing Tall, brings together multiple agencies to support families in a joined up and collaborative manner.

If you or someone you know is experiencing the impacts of domestic abuse, you can contact Standing Tall for support and they will offer you guidance and support.



What's your problem?
Making your problem our problem

[Standing Tall Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Community and Voluntary Sector Partnership - What's Your Problem?](#)

In Torbay you can also contact

Torbay Domestic Abuse Service (TDAS)

[Torbay Domestic Abuse Service \(TDAS\) | Sanctuary Supported Living](#)

For Support in Devon you can contact -



www.fearfree.org.uk

Clare's Law

Clare's law allows a person to request information under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) application

Under Clare's Law you can:

- Apply for information about your current or ex-partner because you're worried they may have a history of abuse and are a risk to you.
- Request information about the current or ex-partner of a friend or relative because you're worried they might be at risk.
- You can also apply for this if you have had a bad experience and want to check a new partner

Anyone above the age of 16 can make this request and you can also make a request if you are concerned for a friend or family member.

You can find more information here - [Request information under Clare's Law: Make a Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme \(DVDS\) application | Metropolitan Police](#)

Here is some further support on how to remove any searches of these sites from the history of a device
Cover Your Tracks - Are you OK?

Safer Internet Day 11th February 2025



At TGGS we pride ourselves with the education and support we have in place for our community to keep safe online. In a recent survey with our school council, all students agreed that the systems in place at school keep them safe online and they receive regular information on any risk they may face.

This year, the focus of Safer Internet Day is

'TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE' - protecting yourself and others from scams online.

The vast majority of young people have access to the internet either through a computer, tablet or computer, leaving them susceptible to potential scams.

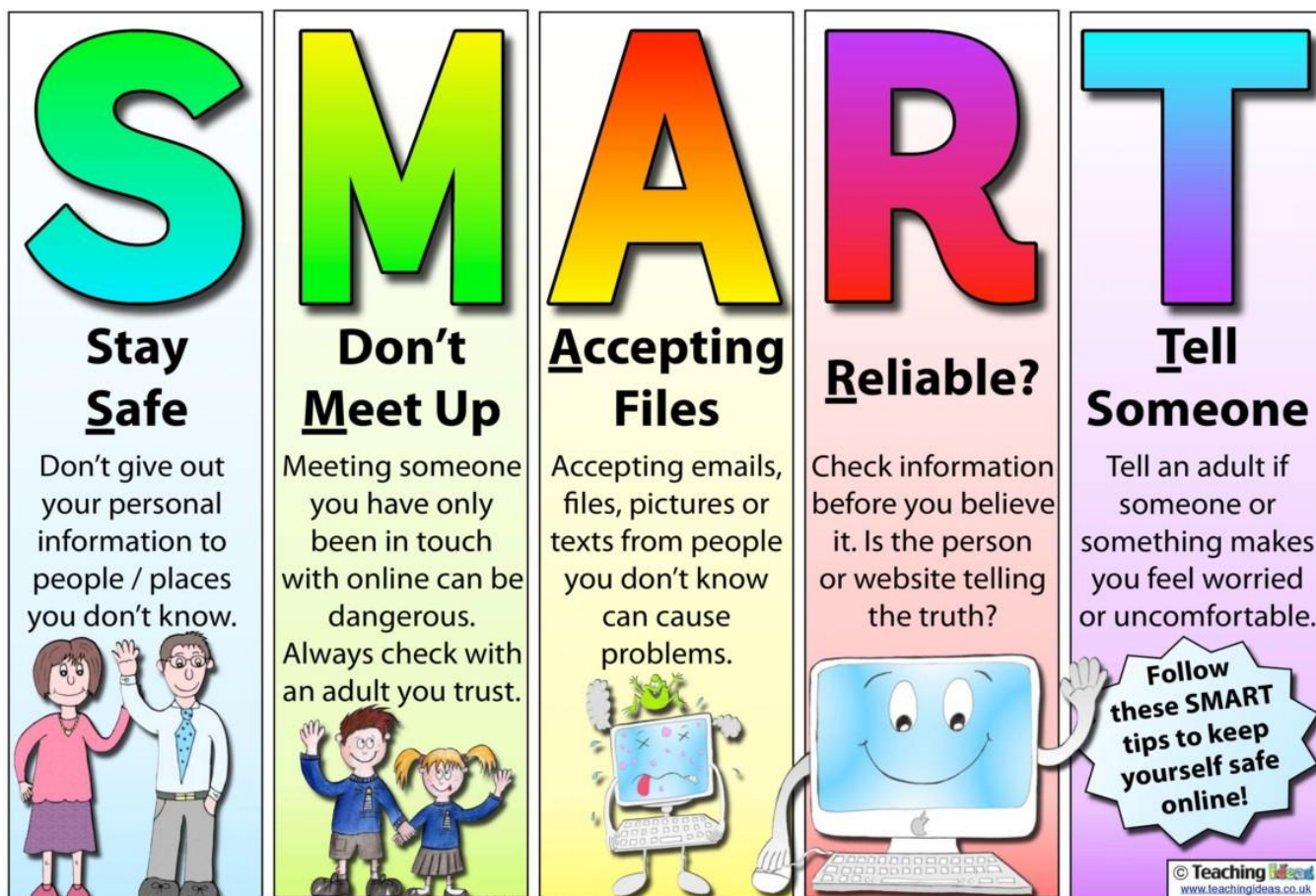
In Computer Science (KS3), PSHE (KS4) and tutorial (SIXTH FORM) sessions over the next two school weeks, students will be reminded of how to spot scams, protect their personal information and remember that any organisations driving cybercrime act in a very devious and underhand manner.

As a reminder – parents can get support on our parental website page – [Torquay Girls Grammar School - Online Safety for Parents](#)

And from the services below -

How to get help online.





SMART tips based on resources from www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Please encourage your children to be **SMART online**. If you have any concerns with any content your child has received you can report this through the following sites:

www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre

<https://reportharmfulcontent.com/>

It is highly recommended that you do not allow your child to have access to their mobile phone overnight in their bedrooms.

Online Safety We constantly remind our students of their digital footprint. The average teenager spends up to 3 hours a day on their phone accessing social media outside of school. It is so important that parents use the advice in this newsletter to take an active role in ensuring children access the internet safely. We continue to publish advice through our website for our whole community. There is advice on our parent specific online safety page through our website Online Safety - [Torquay Girls Grammar School - Online Safety for Parents](#)

Updates from the reason Torbay Educational Services forum (TESS)

Abandoned buildings



Torbay council have outlined that there are currently several abandoned buildings in the Bay. Torquay – Bancourt Hotel / Shelly Court / Coppice Hotel / Sifam / Virginia Hotel / Debenhams / Living Coasts. Paignton – Berkley Hotel. There are many risks associated with this

- Risk of death / serious harm.
- Risks from structural issues, fire, needles, falls from height etc.
- Asbestosis – risk from exposure to asbestos often found in roofs.
- Psittacosis / Cryptococcus / Histoplasmosis / Candidiasis – bird droppings risk.
- Risks from others – potential for multiuse by drug & alcohol users / rough sleepers / others.

They have shared this with local schools to raise awareness for families and students as a deterrent to young people entering these dangerous places.

Review of safeguarding thresholds

Torbay safeguarding children partnership are currently reviewing the safeguarding children's board safeguarding thresholds chart. These thresholds are used to determine the level of support that may be needed for a child that may be at risk of harm. Once we have had these shared with us, we will ensure all policy and process is updated and share this with all stakeholders.



Is your child eligible for Free School Meals?

If your personal circumstances have changed recently and you think your child may benefit from having Free School meals, please follow the link below which takes you to the application pages.

[Free school meals - Torbay Council](#)

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

13

is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps.



Twitter



Facebook



Instagram



Pinterest



Messenger



Tik Tok



Discord



Snapchat



Twitch



Yubo



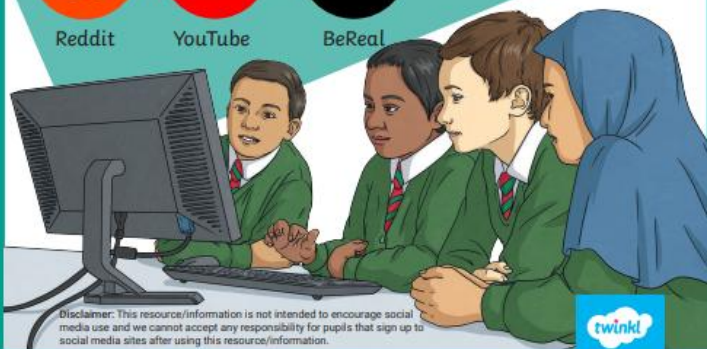
Reddit



YouTube



BeReal



Disclaimer: This resource/information is not intended to encourage social media use and we cannot accept any responsibility for pupils that sign up to social media sites after using this resource/information.

Contacts if you are concerned about a child.

If you are worried about a child, or if you are a child worried about your own safety, or your query is of a safeguarding nature, please call the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub):

For Torbay residents call **01803 08100** or email mash@torbay.gov.uk

For out of office hours please call 0300 4564876

For Devon residents call 0345 155 1071 or email mashsecure@devon.gov.uk

If you or a child is at immediate risk, please call **999**.

If you need support there is lots of helpful information such as websites available [Here](#)