

Safe At Summerhill

At Summerhill School we are committed to Safeguarding our children and young people as well as promoting positive well-being for all.

This Safeguarding newsletter, aims to help staff, parents and students alike to be aware of the safeguarding and mental health issues, giving you useful links and resources to use if you have concerns. If you have concerns or ideas for future topics please do not hesitate to contact us on the main school number 01384 816165 or via email on studentssupport@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk

Emergency SOS

Did you know your phone could be a major help in an emergency? Your phone can call for help and alert your emergency contacts. On Apple phones when you make a call with SOS your iPhone automatically calls the local emergency number and your location with the emergency services. You can also add emergency contacts so once the emergency call has ended it will alert them with a text message. This can then also access your medical ID so if you have a medical condition the emergency services are made aware. The same thing will happen on Android, here is the link to both if you would like to read more and how set up your emergency call and your medical ID.

[EMERGENCY SOS ON IPHONE](#)

[EMERGENCY HELP ON ANDROID](#)

Almost 87,000 sexual offences against children were recorded by police in the past year. The NSPCC are launching a campaign with the Home Office to tackle child sexual abuse and raise awareness for our Helpline. New data reveals almost 87,000 sexual offences against children were recorded by police in 2022/23. The types of offences included rape, sexual assault, grooming and sexual exploitation. NSPCC are encouraging adults to contact their Helpline if they are concerned a child could be at risk. Their new research reveals that child sexual offences recorded by police over the past year remain close to record levels. They submitted a Freedom of Information request which showed a total of 86,962 sexual offences against children were recorded by police across the UK in 22/23. This remains one of the highest on record since we started this annual research 16 years ago. The highest number of crimes where age was known were against 11–15-year-olds. If you would like to read more and watch their campaign video please head to this link, [NSPCC](#)

What Children & Young People Need to Know about Free Speech vs Hate Speech

Freedom of expression is enshrined in international law. Some individuals, however, misunderstand the right to share their opinions as a license to target others with the most horrendous prejudice. So how do we balance people's prerogative to have their voice heard against everyone's right to live in a respectful, inclusive society? This conflict frequently unfolds in the digital world. Online posters can be falsely accused of hate speech, while actual hate is often defended as merely being 'free speech'. To help children and young people learn to identify the boundaries and recognise genuine hate speech when they see it, our guide below provides some helpful definitions and guidelines.

Children & Young People's Voice Survey

Bernardo's are trying to capture as many Young People's views as possible, we have devised a simple questionnaire suitable for 10-18 years old, it takes approximately 5 minutes. If you scan the QR code or follow the link to Survey Monkey on the PDF attached. By responding to the survey there is an opportunity to be entered into a £100 Amazon Voucher prize draw. - <https://uk.surveymonkey.com/r/MG7JL7G>



Mrs Sprouting
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mr Randle
Deputy
Safeguarding
Lead



Ms Gordon
Deputy
Safeguarding
Lead



Mr Quirke
Deputy
Safeguarding
Lead



Mr Cresswell
Deputy
Safeguarding
Lead

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICE SURVEY



DO YOU LIVE
IN...

ARE YOU
UNDER 18?

THE BOROUGHES OF,
SANDWELL, DUDLEY, WALSALL OR
WOLVERHAMPTON?

IMPROVE
HEALTHCARE

HAVE YOUR SAY

NHS BLACK COUNTRY
INTEGRATED CARE BOARD WANT
TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS



DO YOU HAVE
MINUTES TO ...

5

COMPLETE THE SURVEY & ENTER
INTO A FREE £100 AMAZON
VOUCHER PRIZE DRAW

IT'S
ANONYMOUS



CLICK ON THE LINK OR SCAN
THE QR CODE TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE CYP VOICES SURVEY

<https://uk.surveymonkey.com/r/MG7JL7G>

If you have any questions, queries or would like to be
involved more in this work please contact us at
Blackcountryvoices@barnardos.org.uk



What Children & Young People Need to Know about **FREE VS HATE SPEECH**

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's not the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly: being respectful and inclusive to those around us, rather than making offensive and threatening remarks. That's called 'hate speech' and knowing the difference is incredibly important.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives ...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's theories were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin, even today. A frequent exchange of ideas is vitally important for a healthy society.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having ours challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Freedom of expression includes the right not to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal. By law, nobody can force you to say anything you don't want to.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote, decent working conditions or same-sex marriage – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – that negatively targets a group or an individual because they are perceived to be different in some way. Demonising and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes...

Targeting people or groups because of a protected characteristic – like race, gender identity, sexuality, nationality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on the same characteristics: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example. Separating the target from other human beings is usually an attempt to justify the speaker's bigotry.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions. Suggesting that a certain group should be removed from society could be seen as a call to arms, for example – potentially putting people from that group in danger.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way. This kind of thinking is always incorrect – but can be incredibly harmful to the group in question.

Spreading damaging misinformation about a person or group that the speaker views as "different" – essentially, trying to turn others against them by lying. Someone might claim that a recent tragedy is the fault of this entire group, when this is simply not possible.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are. This has been illegal in the UK for a long time – but some people still try to promote the exclusion of others, which can cause a huge amount of distress.

Meet Our Expert

The Global Equality Collective is an online community for homes, schools and businesses, a collective of hundreds of subject matter experts in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisation behind the GEC app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.

GLOBAL
EQUALITY
COLLECTIVE

The
National
College

NOS
National
Online
Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/42/schedule/1/1/text/1/Everyone%20has%20the%20right%20to%20freedom%20of%20expression>