



## Safeguarding Update February 2017

A reminder that should you have a concern you must complete the 'Safeguarding Concern Form' on MIS.

Click [here](#) to access it.



Keeping our children and young people safe

If you are interested in attending a Safeguarding related course, the LSCB run a number of training events. Information can be found [here](#).

A reminder that should you know who the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and safeguarding officers are and what to do if you receive a disclosure. Click [here](#) for



Matthew  
Close  
(DSL)

Jon Owen  
(Deputy  
DSL)

Clemmie  
Stewart

Sally Ralph

Garnette  
Watts

Anne  
McCool

## Helping children cope with bereavement

“Most grieving pupils do not need a ‘bereavement expert’ they need people who care. Schools, just by carrying on with their usual day-to-day activities, can do a huge amount to support a grieving child.”

If you are interested in joining a small working party to discuss how we can better support our pupils with bereavement, please contact Matt Close.

Did you know...

Up to 70% of schools have a bereaved pupil on their roll at any time

92% of young people will experience a significant bereavement before the age of 16 years

1 in 29 school age children will be bereaved of a parent or sibling – that’s a child in every class

**Try not to judge** - Grief is a very personal experience, every child and young person will do it their way, even if from the same family. Teenagers in particular resent assumptions being made as to how they should be feeling and what they should be doing.

**Check out the facts** - Familiarise yourself with the circumstances surrounding the death. Speak to the Head of Year to understand what the family is asking for. Different information from home and school will confuse a child and complicate their grief.

**Acknowledge what has happened** - Do not be afraid to use the word 'death', 'I was very sorry to hear of the death of your ...'. If you find words difficult you can discreetly give the pupil a card expressing your care and concern. Tutors should organise for a card from the tutor group. A card to a bereaved child from his/her class is usually appreciated and helps to keep up contact with school if they are not attending.

**Responses will vary** - Don't assume that a lack of reaction means that they do not care. Initially, the full reality may not have sunk in. Young people can feel that they have to be seen to be coping as a sign of maturity. Allow them to express emotion and feelings and do not be afraid to share your own feelings of sadness if you have any.

**Children and young people need honesty** -Although sometimes difficult, it is better to answer questions truthfully. If you are faced with a difficult question, rather than answering straight away, ask the child what they think.

**Be prepared to listen** - Schools are busy places and your time may be limited but an offer to spend a bit of quiet time with a child who clearly wants to talk will be greatly appreciated. Some will welcome the opportunity to just sit with you but say nothing; for others it is enough to know that you are keeping a look out for them.

**Give bereaved pupils time** - It may be many months before they can fully cope with the pressures of school work again. Remember that they will be grieving for life and the loss will always be with them. Explain to other pupils how the bereaved child may be feeling and encourage them to be openly supportive.

**If you are discussing something in class** that will refer to the person who has died, don't be afraid to do so. Ignoring them might be perceived as a denial they ever existed. If not sure, check it out with the bereaved child first, letting them know your intention.

Good websites for further information. Click on the them to go to the appropriate pages.



## Important Reminders

### Anti-bullying Policy

We have recently updated the [Anti-bullying Policy](#). It now includes a clear distinction between “friendship issues” and “bullying”. If a pupil, parent, or member of staff comments that a pupil is being bullied, you must complete a “Bullying Concern Form” available in the Common Documents Section of MIS

### Identity Lanyards

Everyone must be wearing their lanyards around school, even during the holidays. Please can I ask that you challenge and escort to the Main reception anyone not wearing one

### Prevent Training –

SHS is committed to the Prevent Programme. All staff must have completed this training by the end of this academic year.

**YOU HAVE ACCESSED THE  
E-LEARNING TRAINING ON PREVENT**

### United Learning Hub



Fiona Lyons is the Lead Safeguarding Officer for the Group.

The Hub has a range of publications as well as links to statutory guidance and useful websites.

[Click here to access the safeguarding page.](#)

To log into the Hub, you will need to click on Surbiton High in the drop down menu and then use your School username and password.