

DIARY DATES

ATT Safeguarding Conference
Wednesday 4 October 2017

Anti-Bullying Week
13-17 November 2017

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Kirsty Woolls
HR Director

Changes at ATT Head Office

We hope you all had a good summer and are feeling refreshed and raring to go for the new term.

Over the summer break we have had some changes at ATT Head Office; Emma Hughes has now left The Trust and has moved into a career heading up HR for a well-known legal firm, we wish her all the luck for the future. Kirsty Woolls (pictured below) has been appointed as the new HR Director and started the role in the middle of August.

The ATT Safeguarding Group continues to meet once a term to scrutinize policy and practice and ensure we remain compliant and demonstrate best practice. The members of the group are:

- Pat Hunt – Director of Safeguarding, SEN, Governance and Children's Services
- Amy Hodgkins (Safeguarding Administrator)
- Pete Bishop (Governance Manager)
- Kirsty Woolls – HR Director
- Claire Pritchard – Chief Operating Officer
- James Howell – IT Manager
- Liz Barrett – Principal of FE
- One Primary Representative – Currently Bobbie Caisley – Sun Academy
- One Secondary Representative – Currently Shiv Ressel – The Queen Elizabeth Academy.

A reminder to all Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs), the date of the ATT Safeguarding Conference has been changed and is now Wednesday 4 October, taking place at The Queen Elizabeth Academy. Safeguarding Governors are welcome to attend, so please inform them of the day. More details (including timings etc.) will be sent out soon.

Another reminder to DSLs, please can you continue to keep your ATT Safeguarding Audits up to date and please remember to complete your Safeguarding Report to Governors.

Wellbeing: The words that go unsaid

How can we, as professionals, tell when a pupil needs our support? It's a simple question and the obvious answer is if they ask for our help. However, often the voice which most needs to be heard is the quietest. There are a number of warning signs or changes that children may display that could inform us that a child is a cause for concern, these changes might include (but are not limited to):

- **Weight** – an unusual increase, decrease or fluctuation in weight
- **Alertness** – becoming demotivated or lethargic or full of anxious energy
- **Attendance** – worsening attendance/punctuality or sometimes the reverse if school is a safe haven
- **Academic Performance** – a fall in grades or an obsession with perfection
- **Appearance** – neglecting self-care or spending more time on their appearance
- **Popularity** – withdrawing from friends or socialising a lot more with different people.

For the full article from Sec Ed, please follow this [link](#).

Middle-class children 'being groomed to sell drugs'

Middle class children are being groomed to sell drugs by criminal gangs branching out from cities into rural towns, a report has warned. Children as young as eight from stable and economically better-off backgrounds are at risk of being exploited by gangs using 'country lines' tactics, which facilitate the supply of class A drugs from urban areas to country or coastal towns.

The report, by All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Runaway and Missing Children and Adults said the drug distribution model had spread from London to the rest of the country, including Manchester and Liverpool. The 'country lines' tactic involves the operation of a telephone number in an area outside a gang's normal area which is then used to sell drugs directly to users at street level.

The gangs set up a secure base in a more rural area and use runners to conduct day to day dealings. The gangs deploy children and vulnerable people as couriers to move drugs and cash between the new market and their urban base.

For the full article from The Telegraph, please follow this [link](#).

Five things schools can do to help pupils' mental health

There is a growing crisis within children's mental health, and this is not a term used lightly – between 2010 and 2015 there was a 50% increase in hospital admissions because of children self-harming and in 2016 Childline reported the highest ever number of callers expressing suicidal thoughts. This is a figure that has doubled in the last five years. A report by the Children's Commissioner for England warned that more than 800,000 children were living with mental health issues in the UK, with a large proportion from vulnerable families. Issues they face include parents with alcohol addiction, involvement in the care system, as well as dangers posed by street gangs and modern slavery.

As children's mental health becomes one of society's most pressing issues, many teachers find themselves on the frontline – with the effect being felt in schools across the country. In 2017, 79% of teachers in both primary and secondary schools reported seeing an increase in stress, anxiety and panic attacks in their pupils as well as a rise in depression, self-harm and eating disorders.

With this in mind, below are five ways schools can try and help.

1. Start talking about it
2. Create a safe space
3. Support for all
4. Make sure teachers know how to help
5. Recognise that it takes a community

For the full article from The Conversation, please follow this [link](#).

Don't wrap pupils in 'cotton wool', Ofsted head tells schools

New Ofsted training will 'remind inspectors what safeguarding is really about', according to Chief Inspector Amanda Spielman. Children have been denied the chance to develop resilience and grit due to an over-cautious health and safety culture in schools, Ofsted's head has said.

Chief Inspector Amanda Spielman said: "The culture of wrapping children in cotton wool makes it difficult for them to learn to cope with normal everyday risk".

Writing in a recent Sunday Telegraph, she said her message to schools is to make sure they distinguish between real and imagined risk.

Ms Spielman said: "Children in hi-vis jackets on school trips looked like tiny construction workers, and referred to a primary school which had cancelled its sports day due to dew on the grass". An example she described as simply barmy.

For the full article from TES, please follow this [link](#).

Safeguarding & Technology

How to protect children from harm

In the digital world, for the first time in history, children and toddlers are being raised in environments that are rife with technology. While some parents restrict children's usage of mobiles, tablets and various devices, others are embracing it, despite the effects of the use of technology in the year stages of development being widely unknown. Many early years' practitioners will even argue that technology doesn't have a place in the pre-school education environment for a number of reasons, including the risk of dangerous content falling into the hands of the most vulnerable.

Yet contrary to this, many studies have revealed huge benefits of incorporating technology into the learning processes of children, including improved retention of information, higher engagement and enhanced learning. Technology isn't something parents can run away from, with schools, libraries, shops and businesses utilising digital technology to keep up with competitors and make things easier for their customers and users.

So if children and toddlers are using technology, how can harm be prevented? Below are the best ways to safeguard children whilst using technology:

- Child-friendly apps
- Child-specific devices
- Parental control software

For the full article form Virtual College, please follow this [link](#).

Terrifying new craze of 'baiting'

A terrifying new social media craze sees people cyber-bullying teenage girls by lying about them having sex online. Known as 'baiting', the horrific phenomenon is becoming increasingly prevalent in the UK.

Bullies post photos or videos of their victims – which can also include boys – to Twitter, YouTube or Instagram, often calling them 'sluts' and accusing them of being promiscuous. They also name the teenagers, often going into lurid detail about what the girl or boy has done – but it's all made up. Often, the point seems to be to humiliate the victim.

Sometimes pictures of the victims in their underwear will be used, with the shots normally stolen from their personal social media pages. As well as naming and shaming them, the bullies link to the person's social media pages. This makes it easier for people to target them or comment on the rumour.

For the full article from The Sun, please follow this [link](#).



Safeguarding in Education

How teachers can spot signs of abuse

Detecting signs that a child has been abused, either physically or mentally can be difficult. Teachers frequently come into close contact with children meaning that they are in a position to spot the signs of abuse. It is vital that teachers and other educational professionals feel fully supported when reporting concerns of abuse. Below are different types of abuse and how to spot the signs:

Physical Abuse

Bruises, cuts and harm commonly occur from general childhood activities, which can make it more difficult to detect abuse. However, when wounds occur regularly, follow patterns and a child appears to have overall poor health, it is the academy's responsibility to act.

Neglect

Signs staff need to look out for are as follows (but are not limited to):

- Health concerns or medical problems that have gone unattended
- Poor hygiene, Body odour
- Unkempt appearance, inappropriate clothing
- Lack of supervision

Sexual Abuse

Physical indicators of sexual abuse are (but not limited to):

- Regular bladder infections or STDs
- Bruising, swelling, itching, bleeding or pain in the genital or anal region
- Pregnancy in pre-teen girls
- Blood in the child's underwear

For the full article from Virtual College, please follow this [link](#).

Schools are a crucial weapon in the fight against extremism

As terror took hold of Westminster earlier this year, nobody could have suspected that it would be the beginning of a series of attacks that would devastate lives and communities across the country. The role of schools and colleges in this fight cannot be underestimated. These institutions and the teachers and lecturers that work in them play a vital part in protecting young people from the risks of extremism and radicalisation.

Many are not just teachers or lecturers but confidants or advisors to young people with questions about the wider world. Those conversations aren't always easy by the research by Coventry, Durham and Huddersfield universities found that 72% of teachers/lecturers were confident having conversations on extremism and radicalisation with their students. A teaching workforce that is comfortable having frank conversations about difficult topics is crucial when it comes to reaching young people, especially given the rise of social media and equipping them with the knowledge and ability to question extremist ideologies and see them for what they are.

A minority of commentators continue to peddle the myth that the Prevent Duty shuts down debate in classrooms across the country and is simply there to spy on young people but this is not the case. Schools and colleges provide safe places for young people, including those who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, to engage with different ideas and learn how to formulate arguments to challenge extremist influences.

For the full article from The Telegraph, please follow this [link](#).

Parents need to stop kids bingeing on social media 'like junk food', says children's commissioner

A campaign has been launched to help parents manage their children's internet use, Anne Longfield has said it is essential that parents understood the importance of balancing their child's time online, just as they would balance their diet.

"Many children are using social media and the internet like sweets or junk food. Parents wouldn't let their kids eat a double cheeseburger and fries everyday, so they shouldn't let them spend time online in an unhealthy way. Parents have a responsibility as the providers of the smart phones, computers and tablets their children use, to step in now and make sure their children's online lives are healthy".

For the full article from the Telegraph, please follow this [link](#).