



# Safeguarding and Wellbeing Bulletin April 2022

We are continually working to support students in feeling well and safe at school, to enable them to “live life to the full”. Within school, Mrs Gardner, Mrs Hughes, Mr Anderson and Miss Lambert make up the safeguarding team and are available, alongside the Year Leaders and Student Support, to offer support and guidance when needed. We also have a superb relationships with the NHS Wellbeing in Mind Team who work in school each week, the Police School Liaison Officer (PC Boyle) and Change Direction youth mentoring. A wide range of topics are covered in PSHE lessons which will gain a dedicated hour for each year group after Easter.

## Bullying Protocol

This protocol will be followed by students and staff to ensure that any instances of bullying are dealt with swiftly and fully.



**What is bullying?** Bullying is a persistent behaviour by an individual or a group with the intent of verbally, physically or emotionally harming another person or group. Bullying is characterised by:

- **Repetition:** Incidents are not one-offs; they may be frequent and happen over an extended period of time.
- **Intent:** The perpetrator means to cause verbal, physical or emotional harm; it is not accidental.
- **Targeting:** Bullying is generally targeted at a specific individual or groups.
- **Power imbalance:** Whether real or perceived, bullying is generally based on unequal power relations.

Many kinds of behaviour can be considered bullying, e.g. teasing another pupil because of their appearance, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, home life, culture etc.

## Bullying Protocol:

We have worked on strengthening our response to instances of bullying within school by introducing a clear protocol. This has been explained to students within their year-group assemblies too.



At the start of term, staff took part in training from national charity, **Diversity Role Models**, looking at responses to bullying and embracing difference, especially in relation protected characteristics.

### Step 1 Report and Reassurance

- **Report** any bullying, either if you are a victim or have seen it.
- The member of staff will **listen carefully** to the allegation of bullying
- They will **reassure** you that you have done the right thing to report it



### Step 2 Information Gathering

- **Statements** will be gathered from different people who may have been involved or seen incidents, and CCTV watched



### Step 3 Consideration of Evidence; Planning

- **Consideration** of the evidence will take place to decide if bullying has taken place
- **A plan** will be created, to decide how to deal with the incident, in discussion with the victim to ensure that they are happy with what will happen next



### Step 4 Resolutions

- **Support** will be put in place for the victim, by their Year Leader
- The perpetrator will be helped to **understand** the consequences of their actions, reflect on what has happened and understand why their behaviour must change
- **Sanctions and intervention** will be put in place for the perpetrator
- **Parents / carers** will be kept informed of the incident and actions
- A supervised **restorative conversation** will be offered to the victim



### Step 5 Follow Up

- **Year Leaders** will check in with both the victim and perpetrator regularly to ensure that the bullying has stopped
- All of the information and actions will be logged on CPOMS and monitored.



## Key Safeguarding Contacts:

Mrs Gardner (Interim Head of School):  
a.gardner2@bhs.hslt.academy  
Mrs Hughes (Designated Safeguarding Lead):  
z.hughes@bhs.hslt.academy  
Mr Anderson (Deputy Safeguarding Lead):  
r.anderson@bhs.hslt.academy  
Miss Lambert (Deputy Safeguarding Lead):  
s.lambert@bhs.hslt.academy  
Further information can be found on the school website.



## Online Safety

We are seeing an increasing number of students who are using the app, Discord, especially through gaming. As it is a relatively new app, there is detail here about it, and ideas of how to monitor its use.



With over 14 million daily users, Discord is one of the most popular communication tools for gamers. It allows you to create or join what are known as 'servers', where different users can talk in groups via text message or voice call. There is also the option to send direct messages and make video calls.



# What parents need to know about DISCORD



### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Your child can access almost any chat server on Discord. This means they can easily be exposed to content and conversations that are inappropriate, upsetting or potentially harmful.



### SEXUAL IMAGERY

Despite there being guidelines in place to prevent it, users are able to circulate adult content. This can include sexualised images, pornographic videos and provocative discussions. It's important to stay alert and know the risks that your child could be exposed to.



### RISK OF CYBERBULLYING

Interactions on the platform are largely unregulated. This means other users can easily say and show things to your child that might be offensive and upsetting. The competitive nature of gaming can lead users to make abusive and harmful remarks about your child.



### HIDDEN CHARGES

Though the basic platform is free, your child will be encouraged to sign up to premium subscriptions, which give extra perks, such as animated emojis and free games. The two options are known as 'Nitro Classic' (which costs \$4.99 a month) and Nitro (which costs \$9.99 a month). Prices are only converted to pound sterling during the payment process.



### RISK OF CYBERCRIME

Cybercriminal groups have been linked to the platform due to reports of hackers sharing stolen data. It's also possible that your child may be encouraged to share the data of their friends, either through peer pressure, or 'for fun', without realising the consequences.



### STRANGER DANGER

To create an account, you only need to display a username and profile image. This makes it easy for someone to hide his or her real identity. Predators from anywhere in the world can join a chat server, message your child and quickly leave to avoid detection. Forbes reports groomers have been targeting children susceptible to online coercion on the platform.



National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

## Top Tips to Protect Your Child



### 1 BEWARE OF WHAT'S SHARED

Whatever your child says or shares on the platform can be seen, heard and shared with a much larger audience. Be careful to make sure your child understands this and does not say or share anything that could be deemed offensive, harmful or put themselves or others at risk.

You can find Discord's own guide for parents here: <https://blog.discordapp.com/parents-guide-to-discord-c77d91793e9c>



### 2 IMPROVE SECURITY SETTINGS

To help protect your child, make sure they set strong passwords. You should consider using the 'two-factor authentication' function for extra protection. It's also important to remind your child to never to share their personal information, or the details of another user.



### 3 CHECK THEIR FRIEND LIST

You can restrict who is able to make 'friend requests' to your child in the 'Friends' tab. It's a good idea to deselect the default option that allows anyone to connect. Of course, you should also talk to your child about why it's a risk to allow strangers to connect with them through such platforms.



### 4 REPORT & BLOCK SUSPICIOUS USERS

Make sure your child knows how to report and block abusive or suspicious users. If you do find your child suffering repeated abuse, contact the platform directly using the email: [abuse@discordapp.com](mailto:abuse@discordapp.com). It's a good idea to teach your child how to screenshot any negative interactions too.



### 5 BEWARE OF NSFW CONTENT

Public forums on the platform are a potential venue for inappropriate content that you should be wary of. There is a Discord mascot known as 'Wumpus', which is supposed to represent anyone under 18. Anyone who posts content unsuitable for under-18s, should mark it NSFW (Not Suitable For Wumpus).



### 6 SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS

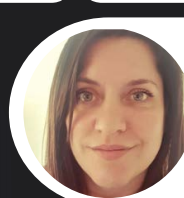
It's important you actively teach your child to treat other users with respect and behave online the same way as they would offline.

Take the time to read through Discord's Community Guidelines with your child. Find them at: [www.discordapp.com/guidelines](http://www.discordapp.com/guidelines)



### 7 TURN ON SAFE MESSAGING

You should encourage your child to activate the 'Safe Direct Messaging' option. This will scan and delete any direct messages sent to your child containing explicit content.



### Meet our expert

Claire Woffenden has been a technology journalist since 1998 with a specialism in consumer technology (apps, websites, home computing and digital devices). As a Mum of two young children - aged 8 and 6 - Claire is passionate about helping to keep children safe online.