



# VERULAM SCHOOL

Headteacher: Julie Richardson

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31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Re: Safeguarding at Verulam

I am contacting you to formally introduce myself as the schools Designated Safeguarding Lead. This is a role that was held previously by Mr Flack and, as I am sure you are aware, he moved onto a new post at another school in July. I am looking forward to maintaining the highest standards of Safeguarding at Verulam and my mission is to create an environment where children feel secure, supported and able to thrive academically and personally.

My responsibilities include overseeing all aspects of safeguarding, from policy implementation to staff training and collaborating with external agencies when needed.

I am dedicated to maintaining open lines of communication with both parents and students, and I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have using the [DSL@verulam.aat.school](mailto:DSL@verulam.aat.school) email address.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to some key systems that we have in place at Verulam to support Safeguarding and Child Protection.

### The Fab 8

We are incredibly privileged as a school to have 8 members of staff who are trained as Safeguarding Officers. We display posters around the school to ensure that all of our students and staff are aware of who they are. All of these individuals have received formal NSPCC safeguarding training and have extensive experience in this area of the school.

### The SHARP System

<https://verulam.thesharpsystem.com/>

Accessible via our website, the SHARP (School Help Advice Reporting Page) system allows young people to anonymously report a concern. We are pleased that this system is used by our students, however would ask you to remind them to ensure that they use it in its intended way: to report genuine concerns or issues.

All students have been taught how to raise a concern via SHARP as demonstrated in this [short video](#) created and shared with them. I encourage you to watch the video and reinforce this with your child.

### Smoothwall

Each school year, the Department for Education updates KCSIE (Keeping Children Safe in Education). This document sets out statutory safeguarding requirements for schools. One of the big foci currently is children

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being safe online. With Smoothwall Reporting we can protect students through the instant alerts that we receive if they search or type on anything deemed inappropriate whilst in their School account.

### **#WakeUpWednesday**

You have been receiving our weekly #WakeUpWednesday newsletter via parent mail. This is a national initiative to support parents and carers in keeping children safe online and ensuring you are 'in the know' about new apps and social media platforms and games.

Over the course of this year, your child will be reminded of Safeguarding procedures and systems via assemblies, PHSE and Tutor Time, however if they have any queries, they are encouraged to approach myself or another member of the Safeguarding Team or to contact me via the Sharp System.

Your input and partnership are crucial in creating a safe space for our students and I thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we can foster a safe, inclusive, and nurturing learning environment that allows every student to reach their full potential.

Yours sincerely



Miss G Perry  
Deputy Headteacher Pastoral and Designated Safeguarding Lead

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