



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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Wednesday 27th March

Dear Parents/Carers,

As partners in your child's education, we believe it is essential to communicate openly about the approaches to safeguarding that we have in place at Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School. At Bishop's, we strive to create a nurturing and supportive environment where every child feels valued, respected and supported. We also have a responsibility to uphold our legal safeguarding duties and to ensure that parents and carers are aware of these too.

All parents and carers can come under pressure or stress from time to time, and it can even lead them to lose their temper. Physical punishment is however never an effective way to discipline children. "Corporal" or "physical" punishment is any punishment in which physical force is used and intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, however light. Most involve hitting ("smacking", "slapping", "spanking") children, with the hand or with an implement - a whip, stick, belt, shoe, wooden spoon, etc. But it can also involve, for example, kicking, shaking or throwing children, scratching, pinching, biting, pulling hair or boxing ears, forcing children to stay in uncomfortable positions, burning, scalding or forced ingestion. (Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2006)

Research consistently shows that physical chastisement can have harmful effects on children's emotional well-being and development. It can lead to feelings of fear, anxiety, and resentment, damaging the trust between a child and their caregiver, as well as eroding their self-esteem and confidence. Studies show that children who experience physical punishment are more likely to exhibit aggressive behaviour themselves and are more likely to struggle academically and socially. They may experience difficulties concentrating, problem-solving, and forming healthy relationships with peers and authority figures.

Our paramount concern as a school is the well-being and safety of all our students. Any concerns regarding the welfare of a child will be handled with the utmost care and urgency. Should any member of our staff become aware of or suspect any form of child maltreatment, including physical chastisement, we are obligated to report these concerns to the appropriate authorities, including Children's Services.

We encourage open communication between home and school and have appropriate agencies which we can signpost to you for support if you need it. You can email the safeguarding team with any concerns or questions at safeguarding@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk.

Thank you for your continued partnership in ensuring the welfare and success of our students.

"Pupils flourish and support each other to succeed"



Yours sincerely,



Mrs Jackson
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Mansfield
Deputy Designated Safeguarding
Lead



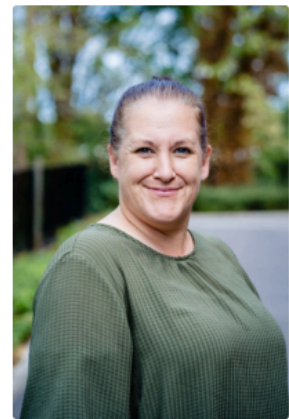
Mrs Alliott
Deputy Designated Safeguarding
Lead



Mr Lister
Deputy Designated Safeguarding
Lead



Ms Knott
Deputy Designated Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs Graves
Deputy Designated Safeguarding
Lead



Miss Lawrence
Deputy Designated Safeguarding
Lead



Mr Wood
Deputy Designated Safeguarding
Lead



Ms Carroll
Deputy Designated Safeguarding
Lead