



# Safeguarding

Everyone's responsibility, every day

September 2025

This newsletter is designed to support parents/carers in deepening their understanding of topical safeguarding issues that may affect their child, themselves or members of their local community.

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm - it is everyone's responsibility. Every single person who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play. If you have any concerns about a child's safety or welfare, please contact one of the designated safeguarding leads at the school.

## **Spotlight on: Domestic Abuse**



Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship. It can seriously harm children and young people and witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse. It is important to remember domestic abuse:

- Can happen inside and outside the home
- Can happen over the phone, on the internet and on social networking sites
- Can happen in any relationship and can continue even after the relationship has ended
- Both men and women can be abused or abusers.

Domestic abuse can be emotional, physical, sexual, financial or psychological, such as:

- kicking, hitting, punching or cutting
- rape (including in a relationship)
- controlling someone's finances by withholding money or stopping someone earning
- controlling behaviour, like telling someone where they can go and what they can wear
- not letting someone leave the house, reading emails, text messages or letters, threatening to kill someone or harm them
- threatening to another family member or pet.

Living in a home where domestic abuse happens can have a serious impact on a child or young person's mental and physical wellbeing, as well as their behaviour and this can last into adulthood. If you are experiencing domestic abuse or are concerned about someone who may be, you can contact the following for advice and support:

- National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247 A 24 hour free helpline run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge.
- Men's Advice Line 0808 801 0327 Advice and support for men experiencing domestic abuse

## **Reporting a concern:**

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the school's safeguarding team.

Alternatively, call the Essex Children & Families Hub on  
0345 603 7627

## **Merrylands Safeguarding Team**

Mr Andrews - Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Mrs Pryer - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Mrs Tolley - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

## South Essex Domestic Abuse Hubs

### How to get in touch

South Essex Domestic Abuse Hub

Phone: 01268 206798

Lines are open Monday-Friday 9am to 5pm.

If you are in immediate danger then please dial 999.

### COMPASS

#### Essex Compass

Essex Domestic Abuse Helpline

Phone: 0330 333 7 444

Helpline available 8 am to 8 pm weekdays and 8 am to 1 pm weekends.

Messages will be responded to within 24hrs.

24hr National Domestic Violence Helpline

Phone: 0808 2000 247

The South Essex Domestic Abuse Hub is a friendly support service, open to anyone where you can access any help, advice, or assistance you may need. The service is completely confidential, safe and free to support you.



For any advice, support, and assistance, please contact: 01268 206798



### Domestic Abuse Helpline



Changing Pathways

Call our helpline: 0330 333 7 444 (8am - 5pm, Monday to Friday)

Changing Pathways has been providing support to women and their children affected by domestic abuse in South Essex and Thurrock for over forty years. We provide free and confidential services for people who are currently experiencing, or have previously experienced domestic abuse and other forms of inter-personal violence including stalking, harassment, 'honour-based' abuse and forced marriage. We focus on listening to survivors and together decide the support required to enable them to take their first step on a pathway to rebuilding their lives.

**Respect**  
Men's advice line

The Information Hub was created to help you find contacts to your local male victim's domestic abuse service, access refuges / safe houses for male victims, and find a range of services offering specialised support for other areas of need including housing and homelessness, immigration, mental health and wider.