

23 February 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

## SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

The information below is designed to familiarise you with the most recent safeguarding concerns that are being faced by all schools. South Dartmoor is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and we will continue to provide materials and updates for parents and carers outlining how schools, the Health Service, Police, Social Care and home can work together to keep children safe. It is key to remember that safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility.

### Reporting an issue to school

I would like to remind all parents and carers that the school has a reporting button on the homepage of our website that enables students and home to report concerns to the school anonymously. We do encourage users to give specific details of the event to facilitate a faster resolution. The 'report an issue button' is situated on the right-hand side of the school homepage above the upcoming events tab. We also have QR code posters around the school site for students to use. These link directly to the report page on the website. The link is below.

[SWGfL Whisper - Report](#)

### NEW - Reporting concerns to the Local Authority

To make requesting early help support or reporting a safeguarding concern quick and simple for everyone, Devon, in consultation with partners, has developed a new online 'request for support' form. The form has been designed to be used by professionals, members of the public, and children and young people to request both early help support or to report a safeguarding concern. The new 'request for support' form will replace the **old word MASH contact form**. The link is below.

[DCC - Request for support \(outsystemsenterprise.com\)](#)

### National Online Safety (NOS)

The online world is posing an ever-increasing risk to children, and it is important that schools, parents and carers work together to take an active role in teaching children about online dangers. Learning how to act safely when using the internet is an incredibly important part of safeguarding our children. We are therefore delighted to announce that South Dartmoor have shown our commitment to protecting our students online by working with National Online Safety - providing resources for all parents and carers.

The resources include parents & carers courses, online video resources and weekly guides covering a huge range of topics, including:

[National Online Safety | Keeping Children Safe Online in Education](#)

- Online Relationships
- Fake Profiles & Social Bots
- Online Bullying
- Online Grooming
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Sexual Harassment & Violence
- Sexting
- Live Streaming
- Online Identity
- Screen Addiction
- Online Challenges
- Overspending
- Social Media Platforms
- Online Gambling
- Radicalisation, Terrorism & Extremism
- Age-Inappropriate Content
- Copyright & Ownership
- Hacking
- Fake News
- Online Fraud
- Online Reputation
- Personal Data
- Pornography
- Targeted Adverts & Pop-Ups
- The Dark Web
- Games & Trends

Cont/d ....

## Knife crime

During the recent school's safety conference in South Devon, one of the main key inputs was around weapons and the impact of knife crime. This has led to an increase in the number of secure knife bins at designated Police stations in Devon. It is important that young people are made aware of the new legislation which surrounds the use and possession of offensive weapons in private such as throwing stars and knuckledusters at home.

Please use the link below to understand the types of weapons in which are referred to and where you can access a number of resources to support conversations with your son/daughter.

<https://nbcc.police.uk/business-support/knife-guidance/offensive-weapons-act>

## What is the Offensive Weapons Act?

The Offensive Weapons Act 2019 introduced tough new measures to strengthen law enforcement's response to violent crime. The act makes it illegal to possess dangerous weapons in private, including knuckledusters, zombie knives and death star knives, and you will soon have to verify you are over 18 to buy bladed items from the internet.

## What items can't be possessed?

The legislation amended section 141 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 to make it a criminal offence to possess in private any weapon set out in the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) Order. Since 1988 it has been an offence to manufacture, sell, hire, offer to sell or hire, possess for the purposes of sale or hire, import, lend or give weapons to which that section applies, and this section makes unlawful the simple possession of these.

In England and Wales, and in relation to this legislation, a private place is a place other than:

- a public place;
- school premises;
- further education premises, or
- a prison.

Thank for your continued support.



**Mr D Vile**

Assistant Headteacher, Culture

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