

BETHS GRAMMAR SAFEGUARDING

NEWSLETTER



1. Excellence
2. Community
3. Respect

Student attendance and site safety

We would like to take this opportunity to remind our parents and carers that all scholars are expected to 'tap in' when they arrive at the school site at one of the ID reader points situated around the school site. Scholars should also 'tap out,' when they leave the school site.

Please be reassured that attendance registers are taken in every lesson by teaching staff, however the Inventory system is an additional measure for the school to have an accurate record of who is on site and when.

Parents and also politely reminded that the school site does not officially open until 8.00am (45 minutes before registration). It has become apparent that since September, some scholars are either arriving to school as early as 7.00am in the morning or leaving the school site particularly late in the afternoon.

The school site is open from 8.00am – 5.00pm daily

I am delighted to introduce myself as Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at Beths Grammar School (from September 2024). It is both an honour and a privilege to take on this very important role and I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs King, our previous DSL for the hard work and dedication in recent years. Mrs Searby will continue in her role as Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL).

As a school, we maintain that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and our pastoral teams monitor and support each student in their care. Any concerns should be directed to your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Should the concerns be of a more serious nature, they will be picked up by Mr Jones or Mrs Searby, our safeguarding team. They can be contacted directly on esafe@beths.bexley.sch.uk. This mailbox is monitored during term time only.



Mr Jones (DSL)



Mrs Searby (DDSL)

Useful resources for parents

Online Safety

In a world where online platforms seem to evolve at an alarming rate, it is important that schools and parents work together to ensure that young people are safe when online.

The NSPCC has a series of excellent resources [here](#) to support parents in this way.

This includes [this](#) excellent online safety blog covering a range of pertinent topics.

Source: NSPCC

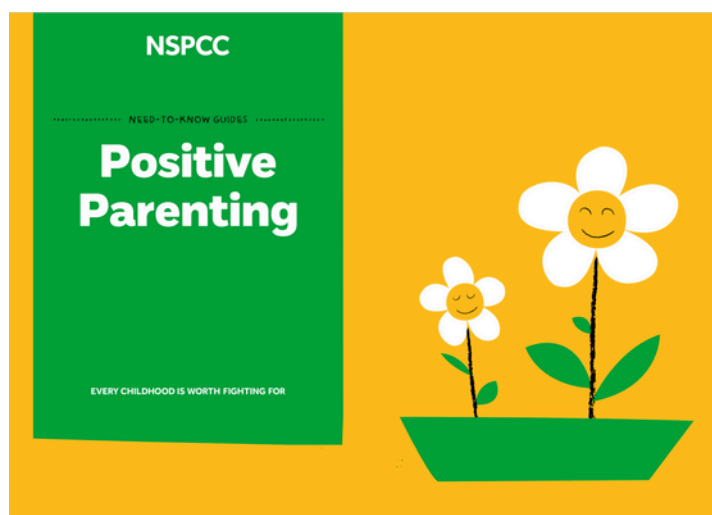
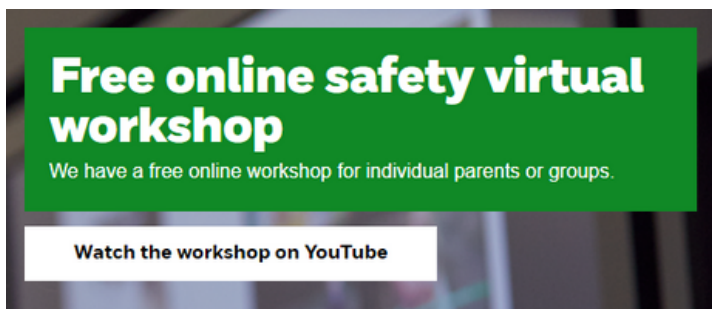
More information for young people on the [Childline website](#)



Beths Grammar School **Safeguarding policy**

All schools have a responsibility to publish their safeguarding policy. Please find our safeguarding policy for the academic year 2024/2025 [here](#). If and parents or carers have any feedback in relation to this, then please do feel free to share this via the email address above.

[Safeguarding policy 2024](#)



Home
Guides and Resources
Parents and Carers

Source: UK Safer Internet Centre

Vaping

How many children vape?

It is illegal to sell vapes containing nicotine to under-18s, or for adults to buy them on their behalf. But vape use among younger teenagers is also growing. Nearly 8% of 11-17-year-olds vaped in April 2023, according to figures from an online survey of 2,000 children by health charity ASH (Action on Smoking and Health), external. That was up from 4% in 2020. It said 20% of this age group had tried vaping, with cheap, brightly coloured disposable vapes driving the increase from 14% three years ago. Vaping is now twice as common as smoking among children.

Source: BBC News



Young people and vaping

NHS Support for parents and young people
Source: NHS Website

Selling vapes

Is it legal?

Under regulation 3 of the Nicotine Inhaling Products (Age of Sale and Proxy Purchasing) Regulations 2015), selling a nicotine inhaling product to anyone aged under 18 is a criminal offence. This includes devices, cartridges, and refill vaping liquids containing nicotine. If you suspect any retailer is selling vapes to underage consumers in the local area then please report them to trading standards using the link below

Reporting to Trading Standards - Citizens Advice



Mental Health Support on 111

Anyone experiencing a mental health crisis can now benefit from support through 111, the NHS has recently announced (27th August 2024).

The change means the NHS in England is one of the first countries in the world to offer access to a 24/7 full package of mental health crisis support through one single phone line. People of all ages, including children, who are in crisis or concerned family and loved ones can now call 111, select the mental health option and speak to a trained mental health professional.

Anti bullying week

**Odd socks day
12th November**



The Beths community are invited to join together in wearing ODD SOCKS on Tuesday 12th November to raise awareness and actively support **anti-bullying**



Student and parent voice
Anti bullying policy

Our anti-bullying policy can be found on our website [here](#). If and parents or carers have any feedback or suggestions then please email via the esafe email address above.

Read More on our website about anti bullying and the work we do

Year 11 – Work experience

**Keeping our scholars safe
An insight from our careers team**



Work Experience provides the students with the opportunity to develop key skills that they will need in their working lives. For the experience to be enjoyable and beneficial, we have to ensure that first and foremost the placement is safe, especially as the students are often undertaking activities that they are not used to doing. By using the Unifrog Placement Tool we undertake checks to ensure that each company has the necessary Health and Safety, Risk Assessment and Insurances in place, and questions around safeguarding are asked and investigated further if there are concerns. Before the students go on their placement, they receive a Health and Safety briefing, which includes contacts and tips for the students. During the placement, each student is contacted by their Form Tutor and placement visits are scheduled by the Careers Team for some students. The safety of our students is a priority, and we hope that our Year 11 and Year 12 students going on work experience enjoyed a safe and enjoyable experience.



Information sharing for parents

“Lean.”

We wanted to alert our parents/carers to a concerning trend that has been emerging in schools across the country. Children, in both primary and secondary schools, have been using the drug ‘Lean’. Although ‘Lean’ is not something the Beths community has encountered so far, we always seek to raise awareness and keep our parents as informed as possible at all times. ‘Lean,’ is a dangerous and illegal substance, taken as a drink, which can have severe health consequences, especially for young people

‘Lean’ is typically made by mixing prescription codeine, usually found in cough syrups, with fizzy drinks or alcohol and sweets. ‘Lean’ is also commonly referred to as ‘Purple Drank’ or ‘Purple’ due to its colour. The combination of codeine and other ingredients can lead to a range of harmful effects, including:

- Drowsiness and impaired judgement
- Difficulty breathing
- Heart issues
- Seizures
- Overdose

‘Lean’ gets its name from the effect it has on people who drink it: they tend to slouch or lean to one side the more they consume the substance. The effects of codeine are like those of other addictive opioids (such as oxycodone and heroin). People who consume ‘Lean’, as well as the negative effects, experience euphoria and relaxation.

Typically, its effects begin to kick in within 30 to 45 minutes, though differing amounts of codeine in ‘Lean’ (sometimes up to 25 times the recommended dose) can shorten onset times. The peak effects begin 1 to 2 hours after ingestion and last about 4 to 6 hours.

If a young person is attempting to make ‘Lean’, they might try to take drugs like Promethazine, or similar antihistamines, that you can find in a most medicine cabinets. Alcohol is sometimes mixed with ‘Lean’ to increase its effects. Behaviour changes are a common sign that your child may be experiencing a substance use disorder. Some of these changes may be subtle, while others may interfere with their ability to perform daily tasks. Some signs your child may be using lean include:

- Acting despondent, aggressive, or angry
- Sleeping more than usual
- Dropping old friends for a new friend group
- Losing interest in activities they once enjoyed
- Weight loss

If you have any concerns related to this or any other substance abuse in general then please visit Bexley Young People’s Drug and Alcohol Service (BYPDAS) via this link.

[Bexley Young People’s Drug and Alcohol Service \(BYPDAS\)](#)

Support over the half term break

Useful links

[Home - Kooth](#)

SAMARITANS

shout
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MSE

MoneySavingExpert.com

Top 'cost saving' restaurant deals

[Food & drink discounts and deals](#)
- [Money Saving Expert](#)

In our next edition, we look forward to some insights from our school counsellor Mrs Brett Smith. However, we are also keen to hear any feedback you have from our first newsletter. Please so let us know if there are any specific topics you would like us to cover or any other feedback you would like to provide using this link.

Feedback

Wishing all of the Beths Grammar community a safe and restful half-term.
Mr Jones and Mrs Searby

Beths Safeguarding team