

# George Salter Academy Safeguarding Newsletter



## INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:

---

Meet the Team -  
Page 2

Upcoming Events -  
Page 3

Seeking Support-  
Page 4

Roblox Advice  
- Page 5

Domestic Abuse - Page 6

Phone Pouches - Page 7

## Safeguarding at GSA

*By Miss J. Woodhouse - Designated  
Safeguarding Lead*

I would like to welcome you to the latest edition of our safeguarding newsletter. The summer term is always a busy and important time in school, particularly for our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they begin their GCSE and A-Level examinations. While exams can be an exciting milestone, they can also bring increased pressure and anxiety for young people, making wellbeing, support and open communication especially important during this period.

Alongside supporting students academically, safeguarding remains at the heart of everything we do. In this edition, we are sharing key information, updates and guidance to help families support young people both in and outside of school, including online safety, wellbeing and the introduction of mobile phone pouches.

Thank you for continuing to work in partnership with us to help ensure all students feel safe, supported and ready to succeed.



AMBITION



BELIEF



COURAGE



# Meet the Team:

Our dedicated safeguarding and pastoral team are here to ensure that every student in our school is safe, supported, and able to thrive. Each member brings unique expertise and a passion for keeping children and young people safe.

In this section, each edition will spotlight different members of the team – see who we are, what we do, and even discover our favourite quotes that inspire the way we work every day.

Remember, we're always here if you need support, advice, or simply someone to listen.

## Mr S. Hayes - Head of Year 11

My role in school is firstly as a Teacher of Food, supporting students to develop their knowledge of food and nutrition while enjoying the practical experience of producing a wide range of dishes. I am also proud to be a Head of Year. In this role, I support students with all aspects of day to day school life, including behaviour, attendance, pastoral care and academic progress. Building positive relationships with students is something I value highly, and I really enjoy watching them grow in confidence and develop their personalities throughout their journey at GSA.

My favourite quote: "The lows make the highs higher"



## Mr S. James - Head of Year 9

I am the Head of Year 9 and Teacher of Maths.

My role involves me supporting students to ensure they are able to maintain positive and purposeful behaviours as they continue their academic journey from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 and beyond.

My favourite quote: "Be better today than you were yesterday, and be better tomorrow than you are today"



## Mrs K. Field - Head of Year 8

My job as a Head of Year is to ensure that students are succeeding in all of their lessons and being the best versions of themselves in order to reach their true potential. This means I may have meetings with students parents/carers to try to make the classroom environment and the school experience as rewarding as possible.

My favourite quote is: "You just can't beat the person that never gives up"



**All staff at George Salter Academy receive regular safeguarding training throughout the year and know how to respond to and report concerns raised by students and parents.**



AMBITION



BELIEF



COURAGE



# Upcoming Events

at GSA and in the local community



Sandwell Family Life

...plus much more!

Close to **750** activities listed for children, young people and families!

[LINK - Sandwell Family Life Website](#)

## George Salter Family Support Drop-In Sessions - We're Here to Help!

A reminder of our drop-in sessions:

- 📅 When: The first and last Thursday of each half-term, 9:10-10:50am
- 📍 Where: George Salter Academy, Main Reception.
- 👥 Who with: Miss Groucutt, Family Intervention Manager

No need to book – just drop in.



**CRANSTOUN**  
Empowering People, Empowering Change

## Managing Anxiety Workshop

Feeling Anxious or Overwhelmed?

Your not alone - we've got your back!

Come along to learn simple ways to manage anxiety, feel more in control and look after your mental health. No pressure, just a safe space to talk and learn new techniques.

Ages 13-17

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026**  
**CRANSTOUN ROUTES**

Unit L14, The Boulevard  
Merry Hill Shopping Centre  
Dudley  
DY5 1QX

**12:00pm – 1:00pm**



**CRANSTOUN**  
ROUTES - DUDLEY

## Parent & Carer Support Drop-in

Parents and Carers are warmly invited to drop in to Cranstoun Routes for a Drop in session on the first Friday of every month between 1:30pm - 2:30pm!

Starting from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

**CRANSTOUN ROUTES**

Unit L14, The Boulevard  
Merry Hill Shopping Centre  
Dudley  
DY5 1QX

Fridays at 1:30 - 2:30

**THIS OFFERS:**

- Guidance on supporting their young person
- A space to ask questions
- Signposting to further service

# Important Safeguarding Information

## SAFEGUARDING



## Safeguarding at GSA

George Salter Academy is committed to the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff. If you don't feel safe or you are worried about the safety of another student, our safeguarding team is here to help.



Miss Woodhouse  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead  
EXT: 5257



Mrs Dale  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding and  
PREVENT Lead  
EXT: 5330

### Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility

**AMBITION | BELIEF | COURAGE**

All staff are responsible for keeping you safe in the academy. You can talk to any member of staff if you are worried or you can add any of your concerns onto the SHARP system.



Scan me!

Email: [safeguarding@georgesalter.com](mailto:safeguarding@georgesalter.com) | Tel: 0121 553 4665



## USEFUL CONTACTS



Online support for young people aged 10 and above.



24 hours, 365 days a year telephone support.



24 hours, 365 days a year telephone support.



24 hours, 365 days a year text line support.

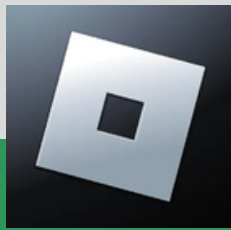


24 Hour, 365 days a year, phone line, text service, email and web chat.



Self-referral therapy service for low-mood, depression, anxiety and stress for over 16 year olds living in Sandwell: [www.sandwelltalkingtherapies.nhs.uk](http://www.sandwelltalkingtherapies.nhs.uk)

# ROBLOX



## What is Roblox?

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Players can either create games or play games that other users have created. As a lot of the content is user generated, not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing as well as setting up appropriate parental controls. PEGI rate Roblox with a Parental Guidance recommended label, this is because it is a platform of individual, user generated games.

## New Age-Based Accounts

From next month, Roblox will introduce two new age-based accounts: Roblox Kids for users ages 5 to 8 and Roblox Select for users ages 9 to 15. Roblox Kids Accounts (ages 5-8) will be limited to games with a 'Minimal or Mild' content maturity label and all communication is disabled by default. Roblox Select accounts (ages 9 to 15) will be limited to games with content maturity labels up to and including 'Moderate'. By default, Experience Chat is ON and Direct Experience Chat is OFF. The differences in chat are outlined here: <https://about.roblox.com/safety-by-age>

## Parental Controls

As part of parental controls, you can manage content ratings, communication, screen-time, and spending limits as well as see which games your child is playing on and who their friends are. Roblox are extending these controls to allow you to: □ Block specific individual games (to age 15), manage direct chat settings (to age 15) and approve access to specific games.

**It is important to regularly monitor what your child is playing on Roblox and who they are interacting with, even if you have parental controls set up. You can find out more about the new accounts and parental controls here:**

<https://about.roblox.com/newsroom/2026/04/introducing-roblox-kidsand-select-accounts>



# DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic Abuse can be defined as: **An incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also by a family member or carer - Women's Aid**

- In the year ending March 2025, police in England and Wales recorded **816,493** domestic abuse-related crimes and an estimated **3.8 million people** were victims of domestic abuse during this period. Key data indicates that **less than 24%** of domestic abuse crime is reported to the Police (*Office for National Statistics*).

Domestic abuse can include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Physical abuse
- Psychological and/or emotional abuse
- Coercive control
- Sexual abuse
- Online or digital abuse
- Financial and economic abuse
- Harassment and stalking

- Domestic abuse can have a serious impact on both adults and children, and is recognised as a form of child abuse even when a child has not been physically harmed.
- We know that living in an environment where domestic abuse is present can affect children in both the short and long term. It can influence their emotional wellbeing, sense of safety, relationships, behaviour and overall development, and is therefore a key safeguarding concern for all of us as a school community.
- Children may experience domestic abuse in a range of ways. This could include directly witnessing incidents, hearing arguments or violence from another room, or being aware of the emotional tension within the home. Some children may also experience the indirect effects, such as changes in routine, reduced emotional availability from caregivers, or feeling anxious, unsafe or responsible for what is happening. Many describe feeling as though they are “walking on eggshells” or constantly worrying about the wellbeing of family members.
- Children are recognised in law as victims in their own right, therefore any concern about domestic abuse must be treated as a safeguarding concern.



- Our school is part of Operation Encompass, a national initiative which supports children who may have been exposed to domestic abuse.
- Through this partnership, the police will inform the school, before the next school day, if they have attended an incident where a child was present or may have been affected. This information is shared confidentially with safeguarding staff so we can provide appropriate care and support in school.
- The purpose of this partnership is to ensure children feel safe, supported and understood. All information is handled sensitively and in line with safeguarding and confidentiality procedures.

If you need support:

**Black Country Women's Aid:** 0121 552 6448  
(for men and women)

**National Domestic Abuse Helpline:** 0808 2000  
247 (for women)

**Respect Men's Advice Line:** 0808 8010 327 (for  
men)

**In an emergency:** call 999

# Mobile Phone Pouches

- At George Salter Academy, we are committed to helping every student flourish academically, personally and socially. We prioritise student safety, wellbeing and creating a positive learning environment for every student.
- Whilst we recognise that mobile phones can be a valuable tool, we also know that unrestricted access during the school day can increase safeguarding risks for young people. This can include:
  - Online bullying or peer conflict during the school day
  - Access to harmful or inappropriate content
  - Filming or sharing incidents without consent
  - Distraction from learning and face-to-face social interaction
  - Increased anxiety linked to social media and online pressures

This week, we introduced **Yondr Pouches** for all students in Year 7-11.

The introduction of Yondr pouches is designed to support students in being fully present in school, helping to reduce distractions and create a calmer, safer environment where students can focus on learning and positive relationships.

Importantly, this initiative is not about punishment. It is about supporting students' wellbeing, encouraging healthy boundaries with technology and helping protect students from some of the safeguarding risks associated with mobile phone use during the school day.

Students will still have access to their phones before and after school, and the school will always ensure parents and carers can contact students in an emergency through the normal school communication systems.



As students enter school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr Pouch.



Students close and secure their Pouch, keeping it on them throughout the day.



When leaving school, students tap their Pouch on a Base to retrieve their phone.

We would like to thank both students and parents/carers for their support, patience and positivity during the launch of this new system. Change can take time to adjust to, and we have been incredibly pleased with how students have responded throughout the first week of implementation.