



Onehouse Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 1QR

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9th October 2025

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Dear Families

Safeguarding Newsletter 1 – New Term

Meet the Team: At Stowmarket High School, the safety and wellbeing of our students is our highest priority. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our Safeguarding Team or remind you of who to contact if you are an existing parent/carer:

- **Ms F. Hubbard** – Deputy Headteacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Online Safety Lead f.hubbard@stowhigh.com
- **Miss I. Gilbert** – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) i.gilbert@stowhigh.com

In addition to these lead professionals, we also have a number of staff who are DSL-qualified, including:

- **Ms L. Hernandez** – Headteacher (l.hernandez@stowhigh.com)
- **Mr S. Stoneman** – Assistant Headteacher (s.stoneman@stowhigh.com)
- **Mrs C. Broxton** – Assistant Headteacher (SEND) (c.broxton@stowhigh.com)
- All of our Heads of Year. Your child's form tutor remains the first and regular contact.

Every member of staff at Stowmarket High is safeguarding trained and can either assist you directly or direct you to the appropriate person. Our team is here to ensure that every student feels safe, supported, and able to thrive at school. If you have any concerns, questions, or would simply like to know more about the safeguarding support we offer, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Safeguarding Awareness: All students will take part in a safeguarding briefing during tutor time in the first two weeks of October. They will be introduced to the Safeguarding Team and reminded about the range of support available to them at school. This includes how they can raise concerns, who they can speak to, and the different ways we work to ensure a safe and supportive environment. We believe it is important that all students know where to find help and feel confident about turning to trusted adults whenever they need support.

Group Chats: We have recently been made aware of several WhatsApp group chats where inappropriate and violent comments were shared. While these comments were not directed at any individual and there was no evidence of intent to cause harm, this highlights the risks associated with large group chats.



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When students are added to such groups, their personal phone numbers may become visible to a wide range of people, many of whom they may not know. This can create potential safeguarding risks.

We ask all parents and carers to be vigilant in monitoring their child's online activity. Please talk to them about responsible use of group chats and remind them to only share their personal details with people they know and trust.

Safer Internet Tips for Parents (UK Safer Internet Centre): The **UK Safer Internet Centre** is dedicated to making the internet a safer and more positive place for everyone. Their website provides useful resources, tools, and training which may be of value:
<https://saferinternet.org.uk>.

Here are some of their key recommendations for supporting young people with group chats:

- Talk regularly with your child about who is in their group chats and what is being shared.
- Check privacy settings so personal details (such as phone numbers) are only visible to trusted contacts.
- Remind them to think before they share or forward messages, particularly anything unkind or violent.
- Be cautious about large group chats where not all members are known.
- Encourage them to block or report anything that makes them feel unsafe, and to speak to a trusted adult.

Attached to this letter is September Online Safety Newsletter which has further advice and signposting for online safety.

Travel to and from School: Please remind students to stay safe when travelling to and from school. They should:

- Use designated crossings and avoid distractions near roads.
- Walk with friends where possible.
- Show respectful and responsible behaviour on buses.
- Stay alert to their surroundings and practise stranger awareness.
- With the evenings getting darker earlier, students should stay in well-lit areas, walk with friends where possible, and make sure someone knows their route home.

If something feels unsafe, students should move to a safe place and speak to a trusted adult.



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Collection from School: If a child is not collected on time, they should return to the school site. Staff will supervise them and attempt to contact parents or carers. If no contact can be made and the child remains uncollected after a reasonable period, the school will follow safeguarding procedures.

Parent and Carer Virtual Radicalisation Information Sessions: Suffolk County Council is offering **free online workshops** for parents and carers, focusing on understanding radicalisation and protecting young people from harmful online content. These sessions provide practical advice and guidance on:

- Recognising potential risks
- Having open, informed conversations with your child
- Supporting your child to stay safe online and in the wider community

For more information and to book a place, please visit [Virtual Radicalisation Sessions](#)

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep every student safe, both in school and in the wider community. If you have any concerns or questions, please do reach out.

Kind Regards

Faye Hubbard

Ms Faye Hubbard
Deputy Headteacher & DSL



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