



Torquay Girls' Grammar School  
Safeguarding Newsletter Issue 4  
Spring Term 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, just a reminder of who our Safeguarding team is here at TGGS.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Sophie Bucklar



**Miss Sophie Bucklar**  
Assistant Headteacher,  
DSL, Head of KS4

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Debra Vanes (previously Nixon), Sophie Cross, Lucy Roberts



**Mrs Debra Nixon**  
Pastoral Support  
Assistant



**Miss Sophie Cross**  
English



**Ms Lucy Roberts**  
Head of Year 11

This term's edition is going to be predominantly focused on **out of school club safety**.

This is a topic that is often overlooked by adults but it is something that is extremely important.

Of course we want our children partaking in extra-curricular clubs- especially post Covid but we need to make sure that we are doing everything we can to ensure the safety of our children.

Ask yourself the following questions and consider your answers:

1. **When your child has joined any club, have you checked/read the club's safeguarding policy?**
2. **Have you asked all trainers/staff involved with the club to show you their current and up-to-date DBS checks?**
3. **Have you checked that the club is registered/licenced?**
4. **Have you ever left your child alone with one of the trainers/staff? For example, dropping them to football club on a Saturday morning or going to a tutor's house?**

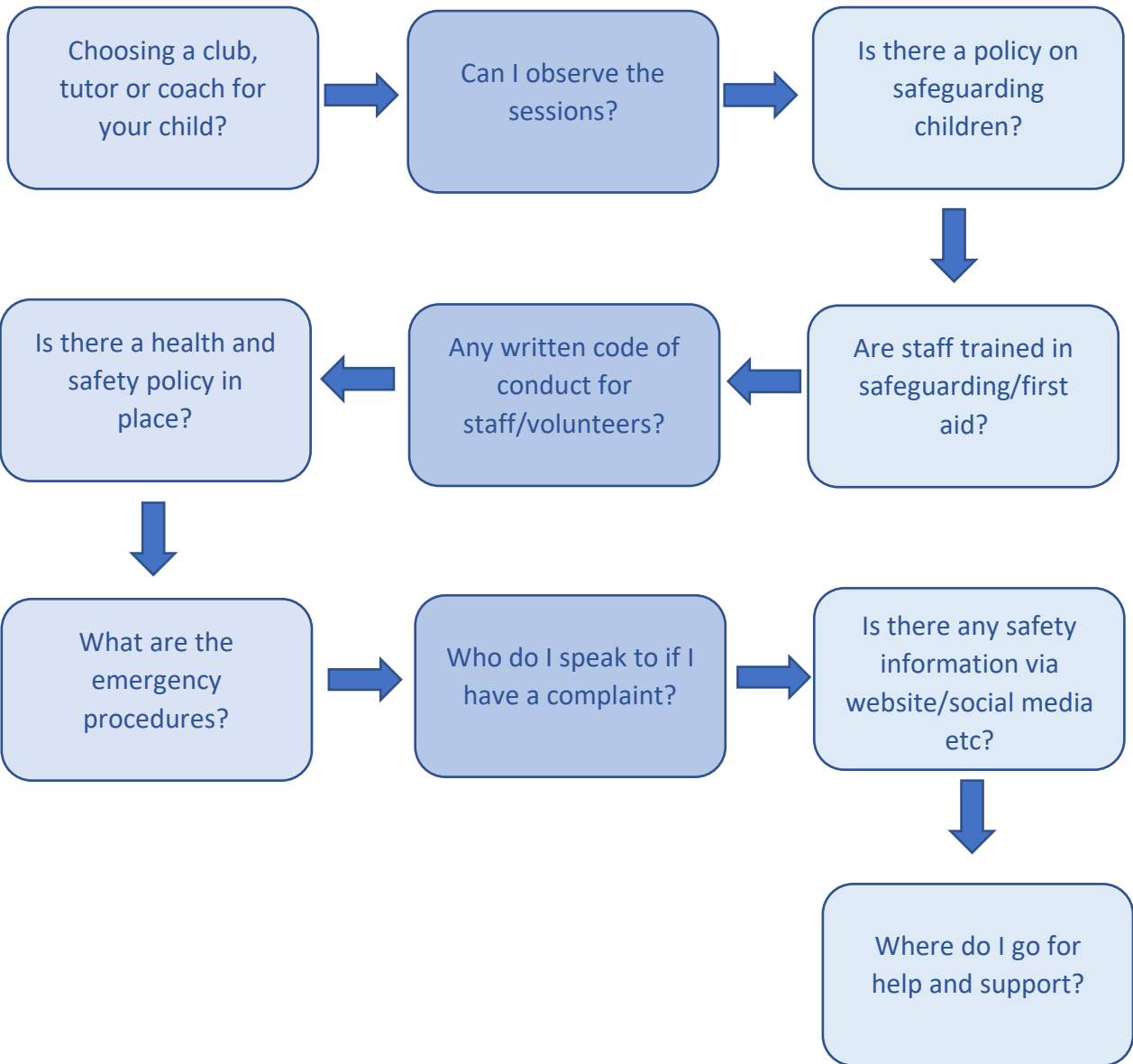
This exercise is not to make you feel bad or guilty about whether you have or have not done any of the above, but it is to show you how easy it is for predators to get close to children. There has been a rise in grooming and abuse during and since lockdown due to the number of parents seeking tutors and clubs for their children. Many of these people who are offering their services are not registered and are in fact predatory adults who are seeking out vulnerable children.

Why are we focusing the newsletter on this topic?

Unfortunately, the following are just a few of the criminal cases that have been in the local news:

- Abuse from an online tutor
- Kick boxing instructor jailed for rape
- Torbay Scout leader jailed for 10 years
- Devon church leader charged with abusing children
- Youth leader convicted of abuse
- Tennis coach convicted of abuse

Please follow the flowchart below when looking for a club/tutor or coach for your child. It is a handy set of reminders that can help you keep your child safe when they are not in school.



## Total Trust in Tutors- things you should DO:



DO check the tutor's qualifications.



DO undertake background checks, including reference from last employer.



DO speak to other parents who provide recommendations.



DO ensure the sessions take place at your home and are visible to you.



DO make sure you and your child feel comfortable with the tutor.



DO challenge any practice you feel is inappropriate or harmful.



DO make sure any communication from the tutor goes through you and NOT your child.



DO maintain boundaries- tutors are professionals you are paying for a service.

## Total Trust in Tutors- things you should NOT do:



DON'T assume the tutor has had background checks.



DON'T ignore if your child says they are not happy with their tutor.

DON'T leave your child alone with tutors whilst you are out/not around.



DON'T allow your child and tutor to have each other's personal number/email/social media.



DON'T allow your child to meet the tutor outside of lessons.



DON'T accept practice or behaviour from the tutor you feel is harmful, unsafe or unprofessional.

Now that the weather is getting better, the evenings longer and your children will rightfully be outdoors more, please do what you can to keep them safe. We shouldn't have to stop our children doing the things they love, but we do need to make sure that the adults we bring into their lives can be trusted and are well-meaning.

This is also relevant to sleepovers. Even if you trust a neighbour or child's friend's parents, you do not fully know them. Please be vigilant if you decide to let your children sleep over at another person's house.

Encourage open and honest conversations with your children about what is and is not appropriate for another person to say or do to your child.

Have a wonderful Easter break, and we hope you and your child are able to get out and about.

Kindest regards,

TGGS Safeguarding Team.



**SAMARITANS**

They are here to listen and provide support

Call 116 123 or visit their [website](#)



**childline**

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Childline provide confidential telephone counselling service for any child with a problem.



Beat provide support to help young people who may be struggling with an eating problem or an eating disorder.



**shout**  
85258

Shout offers confidential 24/7 crisis text support for times when immediate assistance is required

Text "SHOUT" to 85258 or visit [Shout Crisis Text Line](#)

**Urgent and other support available**



**kooth**

Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous online mental wellbeing



**CAMHS**  
Child and Adolescent  
Mental Health Services

Information for CAMHS and CAMHS Crisis can be found [here](#)



**REPORT HARMFUL CONTENT**

Report Harmful Content is a national reporting centre that has been designed to assist everyone in reporting harmful content online.



Ceop: If you are worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with you online.

## On-Line Grooming



IWF safety campaign aims to help parents have conversations with their children about keeping their 'door' closed to child sexual abusers. The campaign includes a booklet for parents, explaining the risks, explaining why children are vulnerable, and suggests practical steps that parents can take.

**TALK** to your child about online sexual abuse. Start the conversation – and listen to their concerns.

**AGREE** ground rules about the way you use technology.

**LEARN** about the platforms and apps your child loves.

**KNOW** how to use tools, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.



For further details go to: <https://talk.iwf.org.uk/>

## USEFUL ON-LINE SAFETY WEBSITES

**National Online Safety – safety guides on ALL aspects of internet use**

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

**Internet Matters – wide range of online safety advice for parents to keep their children safe on-line.**

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

### Safeguarding contacts

During term time, school working hours: If you are worried about a child's safety or suspect a child is being abused or is in danger of being abused please contact a Designated Safeguarding Lead, or any member of staff. [sbucklar@tggsacademy.org](mailto:sbucklar@tggsacademy.org), [dnixon@tggsacademy.org](mailto:dnixon@tggsacademy.org), [lroberts@tggsacademy.org](mailto:lroberts@tggsacademy.org) or [scross@tggsacademy.org](mailto:scross@tggsacademy.org) or telephone 01803 613215.

At any time: You can also contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) details below:

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999.

#### Torbay residents:

- For Targeted Help, Consultation and Enquiries please contact: Telephone: 01803 208525 (9am-12pm) Email: [targetedhelp@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:targetedhelp@torbay.gov.uk)
- For MASH please contact: Telephone: 01803 208100 Email: [MASH@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@torbay.gov.uk)
- MASH Referral Form available at <http://www.torbaysafeguarding.org.uk/workers/hub/>
- For the Emergency Duty Team out of working hours please contact: 0300 456 4876
- For all LADO enquiries: Duty LADO 01803 208541 or email [cpunit@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:cpunit@torbay.gov.uk)

#### Devon Residents:

- For MASH, Early Help, Consultation and Enquiries please contact: Telephone: 0345 155 1071 Email: [mashsecure@devon.gov.uk](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk) Fax: 01392 448951
- Enquiry Form available at: Appendix 9 Appendix 10 48 <https://new.devon.gov.uk/making-a-mash-enquiry> Post: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, P.O. Box 723, Exeter EX1 9QS
- Emergency Duty Team out of hours 0845 6000 388  
Locality Early Help Mailbox North: [earlyhelpnorthsecuremailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelpnorthsecuremailbox@devon.gov.uk)
- Mid & East: [earlyhelpmideastsecuremailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelpmideastsecuremailbox@devon.gov.uk)
- South & West: [earlyhelpsouthsecuremailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelpsouthsecuremailbox@devon.gov.uk)
- Exeter: [earlyhelpexetersecuremailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelpexetersecuremailbox@devon.gov.uk)
- For emergencies outside of office hours please call: 0345 600 0388 or 0845 600 0388
- Police non-emergency: 101