



RNN Group | Safeguarding Newsletter

| OCTOBER | 2022

Welcome to the new term

Our priority is to ensure we have a safe environment at college, that helps learners stay healthy. Our courses provide more than just the technical knowledge, we are also preparing our learners for life in modern Britain. We provide our learners with a range of resources to raise their awareness of local and national issues and want to extend this to you, so you can support your young person with any challenges they may face. You can get in touch with the team at any time for advice and guidance using our confidential email address; Safeguarding@rnngroup.ac.uk



Togetherall is an online community platform, offering a space for you to express yourself, to explore different aspects of mental health and engage in online learner relevant to your needs.

This is a free service, available to our learners, they can register using their college email address

Online Safety



Since Covid 19 and the various lockdowns we now all spend significant amounts of time online and on our devices. This has many advantages for both our social and learning lives, however, we also know that it can have some disadvantages too. Ensuring you understand how to keep safe online is really important, this can be as little as changing your passwords, to making good choices about your online behaviour.

Some online risks including;

'Online blackmail' is the act of threatening to share information about an individual (including images or video) to the public, their friends or family online, unless a demand is met.

Phishing is when attackers attempt to trick users into doing 'the wrong thing', such as clicking a bad link that will download malware, or direct them to a dodgy website.

Online bullying (often referred to as cyberbullying) is any form of bullying that is carried out through the use of electronic media devices, such as computers, laptops, smartphones, tablets, or gaming consoles.

If you have any concerns about your young person's online activity or experiences contact the Safeguarding Team to discuss



Peer on Peer abuse

Peer on peer abuse occurs when a young person is exploited, bullied and / or harmed by their peers who are the same, similar age or class mate. This can manifest itself in a whole spectrum of behaviours including;

- Bullying including cyberbullying
- Sexual violence and harassment, including online harassment
- Physical abuse
- Sexting
- Up skirting (now a criminal offence and has reporting requirements)
- Initiation /hazing type violence and rituals

We want you to feel safe in college and if this is happening to you or a friend, speak to a member or staff or email our safeguarding email for advice and guidance. Remember this behaviour is not appropriate or acceptable at college and will be managed by staff.

Operation Encompass

Supporting children through key adults – this is all about joined up working, the Police inform the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub of any Domestic Abuse incidents they attend where a child (under 18 year old) is either a victim or witness. This information is then shared with college to ensure we are aware of an incident (no information shared) and enable us to either monitor or put intervention in place for that child.



Online Safety - any online and computer-based work activity carried out on a college device available for student use will be monitored. Activity that meets threshold for safeguarding and PREVENT concerns will be flagged and reported to the safeguarding team. Please be aware that this software works on all college devices, including those that are loaned to learners' long term e.g. laptops. It will pick up anything that hits the threshold even when not on campus. You will be aware that every time you use a college device you agree to our Acceptable Usage Policy, which states learners must not use the internet connection illegal, inappropriate or obscene purposes. Anything that falls into those categories will be picked up by the software and investigated as required.

The Safeguarding Team is made up of a number of people from Student Support, Additional Learning Support and the Progress Tutor teams, for more information on who is available on your site please visit the Safeguarding section on the Student Portal

The Designated Safeguarding team are;



Jason Austin
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Laura Reid
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Tanya Gerstmar
Deputy Safeguarding Lead

safeguarding@rnngroup.ac.uk