

— November 2025 —



Child Protection & Safeguarding

Parent/Carer Newsletter

Issue 1: November 2025

This newsletter is designed to inform you about child protection and safeguarding at Hillhead High School. Moving forward, our intention is to send out a newsletter like this once a term so that parents and carers are aware of the procedures and supports in school as well as having information that will help support conversations at home. The newsletter begins with a general overview of child protection and safeguarding supports in our school and then gives information on child criminal exploitation and violence prevention.

What is Child Protection?

Child protection involves safeguarding children from harm at school, in the community or at home. In Glasgow schools this includes: school policies, staff training, and collaboration with agencies like Social Work, Police Scotland, and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. All schools have procedures in place to identify, and report child protection and safeguarding concerns in order to protect children from abuse and exploitation.



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All staff in school undertake child protection training on an annual basis. This covers the relevant Glasgow City Council policies and procedures as well as updates. School partners and visitors to our school receive a copy of our child protection leaflet so that they are also aware of the procedures in place to report concerns. There are also posters in every classroom and office with information on how to contact our school's Child Protection Officers, Mr Richardson or Mrs McAlaney.

We are a Gold Rights Respecting School meaning the rights of children are young people are incorporated into all aspects of the ethos and life of our school. Our school vision is **We Thrive Together**, and we focus on supporting pupils to thrive by developing healthy habits for life, learning, work and belonging. Important messages about wellbeing and safety are also shared via weekly year group assemblies and through work with different partners such as Police Scotland and Glasgow Life. Pupils are encouraged to share any concerns with their Pastoral Care Teacher, Depute Head Teacher or any member of the Senior Leadership Team. All child protection concerns are dealt with discreetly, though in some circumstances we may need to pass on information to other agencies such as Police or Social Work. Parents and carers can find contact information on the last page of this newsletter.

Our Campus Police Officer PC Chris Bell has been with us for several years and is a familiar face to our pupils. PC Bell's current work-pattern at Hillhead High is Thursdays and Fridays and alternate Wednesdays. When not at the school gate or in and around the school building and local community, PC Bell can be found in the Pathways Base and he is always happy to provide advice and support to pupils. He also links with partners to provide inputs such as fireworks safety. Parents and carers can contact PC Bell by phoning the school office.



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Personal and Social Education

Our Personal and Social Education (PSE) curriculum was redesigned last session to ensure that it reflects modern life, builds pupils' life skills and resilience, and meets the needs of our Hillhead community. The redesign has been a collaborative process involving pupils from all year groups, staff from across departments, and parents, who shared their views in focus groups held in January and February 2025. Their input has helped shape a programme that is relevant, engaging, and meaningful for our young people.

Curriculum Structure

The new curriculum is structured around four key themes explored by every year group:

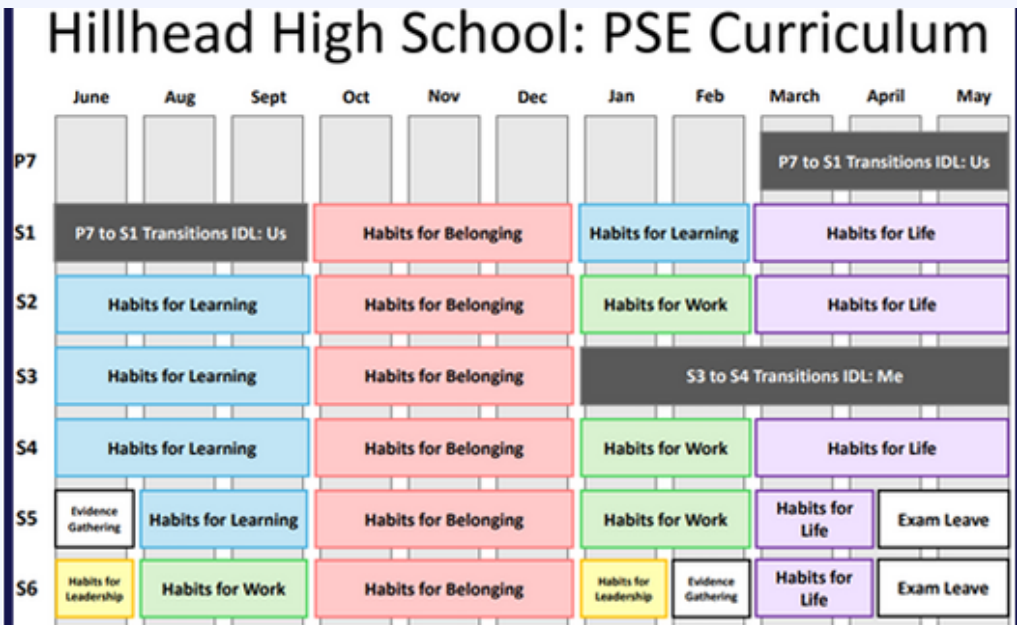
- 1. **Habits for Learning** – developing positive learning behaviours and retrieval skills
- 2. **Habits for Belonging** – fostering inclusion, respect, and a sense of community.
- 3. **Habits for Work** – preparing pupils with the skills needed for future pathways.
- 4. **Habits for Life** – focusing on wellbeing, safety, and making responsible choices.

Focus on Safety and Risk Awareness within the Habits for Life unit, pupils focus on understanding and managing risk, both at home and in the wider community. Topics such as substance misuse, relationships and sexual health, online safety, and crime prevention are explored progressively, revisiting and building upon previous learning as pupils move through school.

Each year group concludes the unit with two key lessons on Evaluating Risk:

- 1. **Hazard Perception** - pupils analyse scenarios to identify potential risks and how to avoid them.
- 2. **Mistakes** - pupils reflect on situations where poor decisions have led to risk or harm, exploring how to seek help and the support services available.

Our PSE curriculum is evaluated through ongoing pupil and staff feedback to ensure it continues to evolve and meet the needs of our learners. At Hillhead, we are committed to helping every pupil develop the knowledge, confidence, and resilience to stay safe, supported, and ready for life.



We work with a range of different partners and organisations to best support our pupils in terms of safeguarding and making informed choices. Some examples include:

Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP): This programme has been running for a number of years at Hillhead High School and is designed to empower young people to become leaders in promoting respectful relationships and preventing bullying, harassment, and violence. Our trained student mentors from S4 will be working with S1 pupils to lead sessions, model positive behaviour, and support others in making respectful choices.

More information can be found in our recent newsletter or this [short video](#) provides more details.

We are linking with the **Medics Against Violence (MAV)** programme—an award-winning initiative led by healthcare professionals across Scotland. MAV aims to prevent violence by educating young people about its real-life consequences from a medical perspective. Next month medical professionals will lead assemblies for S1 and S2 pupils about the physical, emotional, and social impact of violence. These sessions include interactive discussions, real-life stories, and a short film titled *Your Choice*, which encourages students to think critically about issues like knife crime, gang involvement, and personal safety. Further work is planned for later in the session for older year groups.

For more information, visit [Medics Against Violence](#).

Glasgow Life - We are linking in with our partners at Glasgow Life to work together to support our young people. More details on this will be shared in our next child protection & safeguarding newsletter.

No Knives, Better Lives (NKBL) is a Scottish initiative aimed at preventing knife crime and youth violence by empowering young people to make positive choices. NKBL provide training resources and curriculum resources for schools. More information available [here](#). NKBL have also released a [survey](#) to give young people the opportunity to have their voices heard on the impact of violence in Scotland and we have already shared this with pupils and families. The closing date for responses is the 20th November.



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Child Criminal Exploitation

What is it?

Criminal exploitation involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive “something” (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them completing a task on behalf of another individual or group of individuals; this is often of a criminal nature.

Spotting the signs:

- Returning home late, staying out all night or going missing for days at a time.
- Being found in areas away from home, particularly areas you would not expect that young person to travel to alone.
- Increasing drug use, or a young person having a large amount of drugs on them
- Suddenly being secretive about who they are talking to or where they are going.
- Unexplained absences from school
- Having large amounts of money, or having lots of new stuff such as clothes, jewellery or phones
- A change in behaviour – more disruptive, aggressive, anxious.
- Using drug-related or adult language you would not expect
- Having injuries that cannot be explained.
- In possession of hotel keys or keys to unknown places.

The [Crimestoppers website](#) contains further information on signs to look out for.

This [video](#) also provides some more examples.

If you have any concerns in relation to child exploitation, please contact your child's Pastoral Care Teacher or Mr Richardson.

County Lines Activity

What is it?

County lines is the most common form of child criminal exploitation in the UK. Children are 'runners' or 'youngers' who prepare, bag, transport, deal. The involvement of children reduces cost and/or risk for perpetrators.

Some children are groomed, coerced or entrapped into county lines whereas others are aware of the illegality but engage for financial status and reward. All are victims of exploitation.

Children may go missing as a result of county lines exploitation and can be forced to spend days and weeks away from home in cuckooed properties. Young people may refer to this as OT which is slang for “outta town”, “on tour” or “over there”.

Possible indicators may include:

- Distressed behaviour
- Secretiveness
- Tiredness
- More than one phone
- Checking phone frequently
- New friends/ associates
- New items/ money
- Travelling out with area
- Access to substances
- Physical injuries

The Fearless website contains useful information about County Lines activity and can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

This [video](#) also shows signs to look out for.



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Fearless is the dedicated youth service of the independent charity Crimestoppers. Fearless provides young people aged 11 – 18 years with key information about crime and gives them a safe place to speak up with information 100% anonymously online or by phoning 0800 555 111.

The following information can be found on their website in relation to reporting crime either via the online form on the website or by phone:

100% anonymous means that your identity is completely unknown. Nobody will ever know the information came from you.

When you report information about crime to us, we physically can't track your phone number, email address or IP address. And we never take any other contact details or personal information about you.

It can be difficult to speak up sometimes because you can be worried others will find out but our charity takes that worry away.

We believe that everyone has a right to feel safe and we know you want that too.

Speaking up if you know someone is carrying a weapon, manufacturing or supply drugs, exploiting people or responsible for another crime is a way to help your community and the people involved. It's the kind choice.



As well as providing advice to schools, Fearless is also an excellent resource for parents and carers who wish to learn more about how to talk to their children about different types of crime. You can click on the link below to take you to this section of the website:

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/professionals/crime-types-explained>



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Contacts

Pastoral Care Responsibilities Session 2025-26								
Mrs K McLennan	2D	3A	3F	4A	5A	5B	6A	
Mr J Greechan	1E	2A	2E	3C	4D	5F	6D	
Ms A Williams	1A	2F	3E	4F	5C	6B	6C	
Ms J Hewitt	1B	1F	2B	3B	4B	4E	5D	
Mrs N Alexander	1C	1D	2C	3D	4C	5E	6E	6F

If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, please contact their Pastoral Care Teacher in the first instance. You can do so either by phoning the school office (0141 582 0100) or via email. Please note that all of our Pastoral Care and Senior Leadership Team have a teaching commitment as well as other duties but will get back to you as soon as they can.

Mrs McLennan – gw18mclennankarenemm@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Mr Greechan – gw07greechanjohn@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Ms Williams – gw20williamsalice@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Ms Hewitt – gw09hewittjenny@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Mrs Alexander – gw10higginsnicola@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

If you become aware of any child protection concerns please contact our child protection coordinators by phoning the school office or via email.

Mr Richardson (Child Protection Coordinator) – jrichardson@hillheadhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

Mrs McAlaney (Child Protection Officer) – Headteacher@hillheadhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

Out of hours / during school closures (e.g. weekends or school holidays):

If you have serious or urgent concerns about the safety of a child or young person you should contact Glasgow City Health and Social Care Connect on 0141 287 0555 or out of office hours social work 0300 343 1505. If you believe a child or young person to be in immediate danger you should call the police.