

June 2026



Child Protection & Safeguarding

Parent/Carer Newsletter

Issue 2: June 2026

This newsletter is designed to inform you about child protection and safeguarding at Hillhead High School. The newsletter begins with a general overview of child protection and safeguarding supports in our school and then gives information designed to help keep our young people safe over the summer holidays. If you have any child protection concerns whilst school is closed during the Summer holidays, you should contact social work or the police on the details below.

Social Work Services (during office hours): 0141 287 0555

Emergency Social Work Services (out of hours): 0300 343 1505

Police Scotland (non-emergency): 101

Police Scotland (emergency): 999

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 and 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 Mondays and Tuesday 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.

Hillhead High School: PSE Curriculum											
	June	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May
P7									P7 to S1 Transitions IDL: Us		
S1	P7 to S1 Transitions IDL: Us			Habits for Belonging			Habits for Learning		Habits for Life		
S2	Habits for Learning			Habits for Belonging			Habits for Work		Habits for Life		
S3	Habits for Learning			Habits for Belonging			S3 to S4 Transitions IDL: Me				
S4	Habits for Learning			Habits for Belonging			Habits for Work		Habits for Life		
S5	Evidence Gathering	Habits for Learning			Habits for Belonging			Habits for Work		Habits for Life	Exam Leave
S6	Habits for Leadership	Habits for Work		Habits for Belonging			Habits for Leadership	Evidence Gathering	Habits for Life	Exam Leave	

Water Safety

As the weather becomes warmer, young people are more likely to spend time in or near water. Over 200 people lost their lives in 2025 due to accidental water related incidents. and 17 people, including 11 teenagers died in water related incidents during the recent heat wave in May. Yorkhill Fire station have presented to all new S2 and S3 pupils on the importance of water safety, and will be sharing the below advice and messaging.

Stop and Think, Spot the Dangers



The water is **colder** than you think



The water is **deeper** than you think



The water can be **fast moving and powerful**

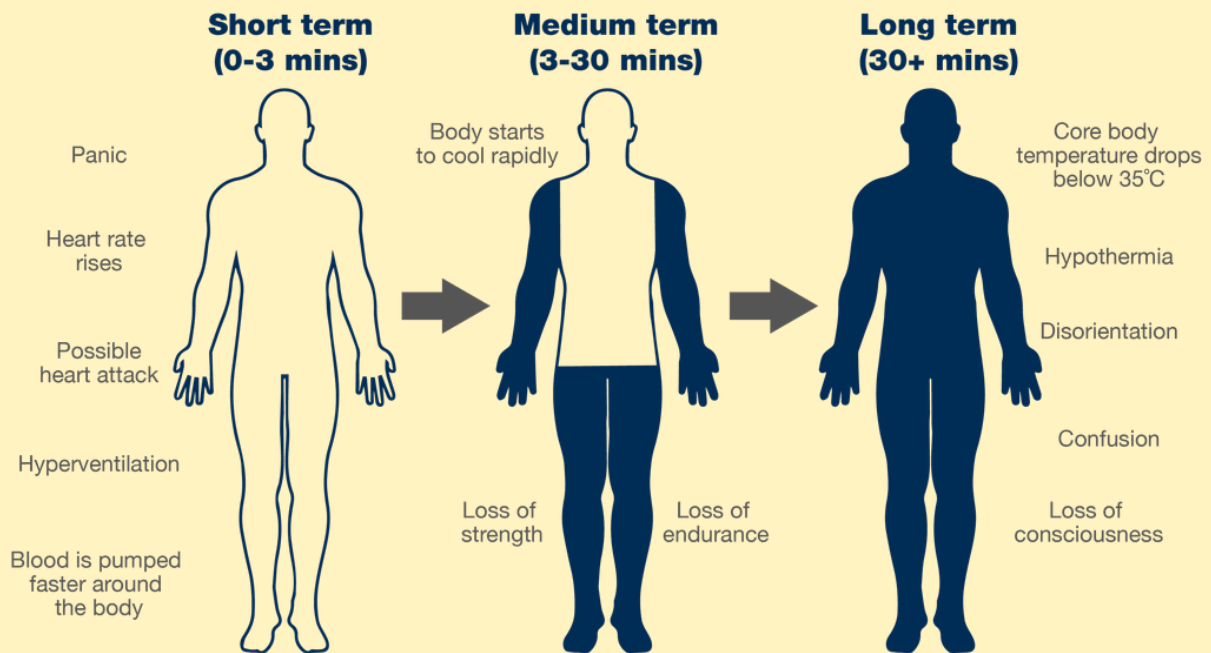


There can be **hidden dangers** in the water



The **edge can be dangerous**

Cold Water Shock



**Stop and Think,
Spot the Dangers**



**Stay Together,
Stay Close**



**In an Emergency,
Call 999**



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Water Safety Quiz

Through the QR code below you can gain access to a quiz which you may wish to complete with your child.

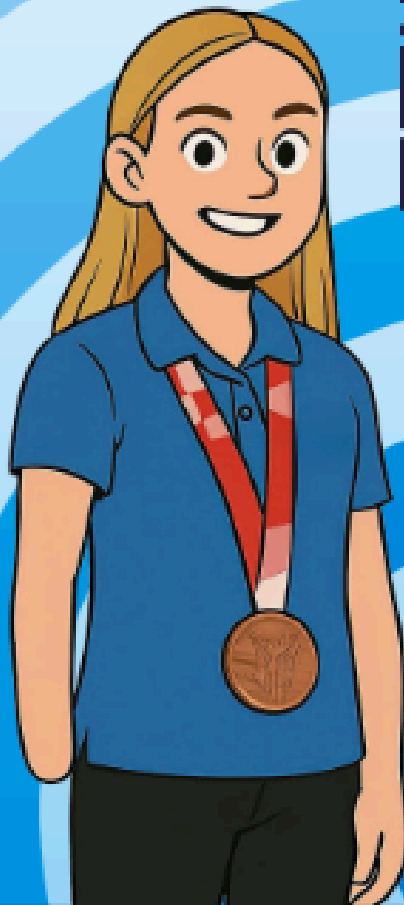


Proud to Support



Test your Water Safety Knowledge

This summer stay safer in, on and around water and be aware of the Water Safety Code. Test your knowledge with our quick water safety quiz by scanning the QR code below or visiting <https://quiz.learntoswim.scot>



For more information email marketing@scottishswimming.com
www.learntoswim.scot

E-Scooters

Police Scotland have shared an update with schools outlining that they have seen a recent increase in the numbers of young people and children involved in road traffic accidents as a result of using E- Scooters.

E-scooters and unregistered e-motorbikes are classed as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1988. This means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters including the need to have a licence and insurance. Privately owned e-scooters are strictly illegal to ride on public roads, pavements, and cycle paths; they can only be used on private land.

Police may seize E- scooters which are being used on public roads or pavements and can also issue fines. The Police website contains more information.

<https://www.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/advice-escooters/>

The risk of injury from using E-scooters is high and the damage caused by falling off can be severe. Between May and October 2025 alone, over 30 children required emergency care at the RHC – some admitted to intensive care. Injuries included major head trauma, broken femurs, chest injuries, and severe lacerations.

Children affected ranged in age from seven to 15 years old. This compares to just four cases during the same period in 2024. More information from the NHS about this is available here-

<https://www.nhsggc.scot/warning-as-childrens-escooter-and-ebike-incidents-spike/>



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Cyber Security

Staying safe online starts with effective cyber security. As more people, especially young people, are spending more time online, this increases the risk that they could be targeted by cyber criminals. We teach pupils about how to stay safe online through our Technologies and PSE curricula. Cyber criminals seek to exploit victims for financial gain by stealing data, for example card details, personal information or private images and then selling these on for profit or using them as a means of blackmailing.

Below you will find some common ways criminals try to commit scams.

- **Phishing:** Fake emails posing as someone you trust to try and steal login credentials
- **QR Code Scams (Quishing):** Malicious QR codes placed in public spots that lead to phishing sites, or on fake invoices to steal credentials.
- **Social Media Hacking & Romance Scams:** Stealing social media passwords or creating fake personas to build trust, often resulting in financial exploitation.

Here are some tips for staying safe online from the [National Cyber Security Centre](#)

- Use a strong and separate password for your email
- Turn on Two-Step Verification
- Use three random words to create a password that is difficult to crack
- Be mindful of what you share online, for example, if your pet's name is one of your passwords, avoid sharing this on social media

Online Gaming

Some video games use gambling like mechanics as a means of generating income. These games are often free, and the developers make money through in-app purchases. This can take the form of loot boxes. Loot boxes offer random in-games prizes (skins, new characters etc), often in exchange for real-life money. The random nature of these loot boxes and the promise of the opportunity to win very rare (and expensive) in-game rewards has led to [researchers](#) urging caution and linking these loot boxes to the gambling industry.

When playing games online young people should take care over what information they share, and ensure their passwords are strong to reduce their risk of being the victim of any cyber crime.

[Childline](#) offers the below advice to young people to help them stay safe whilst gaming online.

- you can report and mute anyone who's abusive, threatening or who tries to [bully you](#)
- people might not always be honest about who they are
- be careful of scams, and don't accept gifts or offers that seem too good to be true
- be nice to the people you're playing with, even if they're not as good at the game.



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Sextortion

Sextortion involves people being forced into paying money or meeting another financial demand, after an offender has threatened to release nude or semi-nude photos of them. This could be a real photo taken by the victim, or a fake image created of them by the offender.

Victims of Sextortion may feel distressed or blame themselves, they have been tricked or deceived in some way - it is not their fault. These threats are often committed by organised criminals motivated only by money.

Typical signs of sextortion attempts may include:

- They try to develop a relationship very quickly. They might be flirty, or ask for sexual / indecent images and videos. Some may even send a sexual / indecent image to the victim first
- They pressure the victim to do things they're not comfortable with. They may repeatedly ask the victim to do sexual things they don't feel comfortable with
- They might say they've hacked them or that they have access to their contacts. Some blackmailers might say they've got embarrassing images or information from their device. They might threaten to share this information unless money is given to them.

On the next page you will find details about where you can find support and how to access useful resources.

Harmful Online Content

Social media platforms can present harmful content to young people including posts and videos promoting suicide, misogynistic views, anti- social behaviour and eating disorders. The below quote from [The Guardian](#) newspaper outlines this concern.

The Molly Rose Foundation opened dummy accounts posing as a 15-year-old girl, and then engaged with suicide, self-harm and depression posts. This prompted algorithms to bombard the account with “a tsunami of harmful content on Instagram Reels and TikTok’s For You page”, the charity’s analysis found.

Almost all of the recommended videos watched on Instagram Reels (97%) and TikTok (96%) were found to be harmful, while over half (55%) of recommended harmful posts on TikTok’s For You page contained references to suicide and self-harm ideation and 16% referenced suicide methods, including some which the researchers had never encountered before.

Social media algorithms are designed to maximise attention and due to the automatic feed of videos from Tik-Tok, Instagram Reels or YouTube Shorts young people can view content that is harmful to their well-being, even if they have not made any attempt to seek this out.

On the next page you will find details about where you can find support and how to access useful resources.



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Further Support, Guidance and Resources

In the box below you will find some useful websites and advice to help you to support your child to stay safe online. If you are worried about your child's safety online, contact information for our Pastoral Care staff can be found on the next page.

- **Aye Mind: Digital Wellbeing Conversation Starters:** A toolkit which shares hints and tips for talking about children and young people's online lives.



- **Child and Youth Apps, Helplines, and Websites:** A document that maps out the range of available mental health supports for children and young people to access, including websites and helplines.



- **Get Safe Online:** The UK's leading online safety advice resource.



- **Online Harms: Useful Helplines, Websites, and Reporting Mechanisms:** A document outlining the range of helplines, websites, and reporting mechanisms to support those who have experienced a variety of online harms.
- **UK Safer Internet Centre:** Helping children and young people stay safe online, including guides and resources for a range of audiences from parents, to education, social work, healthcare, and more.



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Contacts

Pastoral Care Responsibilities Session 2026-2027

Mrs C Caven	1D	3D	4F	6B				
Mr J Greechan	1B	1C	2E	3A	3E	4C	5D	6F
Miss H Christie (Ms A Williams)	2A	3F	4A	4E	5A	5F	6C	6A
Ms J Hewitt	1F	2B	2F	3B	4B	5B	5E	6D
Mrs N Alexander	1A	1E	2C	2D	3C	4D	5C	6E

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 Alexander – gw10higginsnicola@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Caven- gw20whytecaitlin@glow.sch.uk

Mr Greechan – gw07greechanjohn@glow.sch.uk

Ms Hewitt – gw09hewittjenny@glow.sch.uk

Ms Williams – gw20williamsalice@glow.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 (Depute Child Protection Coordinator) -
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 on 999.