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**Safeguarding Letter**

**September 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers

**Safeguarding our Children**

I write to you as the Designated Safeguarding Lead for Haybrook College. There are multiple provisions at Haybrook College which include: Millside School, Springboard, HYPE, Interim, Activate, Apollo, Pitstop, Construction, Kitchen Craft and Wexham Park Hospital School. All of these have their own specialist provision and have an important safeguarding role for our young people. Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. This means:

* Providing support and help to children when problems arise
* Protecting children from abuse, including online, within or outside the home
* Preventing harm to children's physical and mental health or development
* Ensuring children grow up in a safe and effective environment
* Taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

Safeguarding children and child protection [guidance and legislation](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-protection-system/) applies to all children up to the age of 18. Schools and colleges must also have regard to statutory guidance ***Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024)*,** which provides further guidance as to how they should fulfil their duties in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their care.

Safeguarding is closely linked to attendance. If children are in school, they are learning and they are safe. Regular attendance at school ensures that children get the best possible start in life. Good attendance supports learning, the development of social skills and friendships, as well as building good habits that are essential for adult life. School education lays the vital foundations of a child's life. The more a child attends, the better the outcomes.

Where we have concerns about your child’s attendance, we will contact you. This will be by someone from your child’s centre and our aim will be to work with you on strategies for improvement.

The Government and local authorities have revised the guidance and legal position on attendance in an attempt to increase the number of pupils attending school. I have attached guidance below which concentrates on penalty notices. This has been put together by Slough Borough Council. As of 19th August 2024, the national framework for issuing penalty notices for unauthorised absence changed - please see below.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Ian Johnson**

**Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead**

**Haybrook College**

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