



Oxford Spires Academy Safeguarding

We will safeguard all students, staff and our community through knowing what the current and real risks are by working with agencies to have a co-ordinated approach.

Staff Safeguarding Panel

We meet termly to share good practice and seek advice and support from others. We review practice and share learning guidance from trusted sources to ensure our practice remains outstanding.

Student Safeguarding Panel

A small group of students from across the years work together with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) to offer student voice around the Safeguarding at OSA. Follow up work is then completed through developing action plans and carrying out interventions where required.

We are linked with an NHS School Health Nurse who we work closely with for 1:1 student appointments, large group work and advice and support.

School Counsellors are IATE trained (Institute For Arts And Therapy in Education).

The role of the School Counsellor is to support the emotional well-being of those students who are identified as having underlying issues that may be contributing to persistent behaviour concerns.

Students are generally referred by members of staff, but are sometimes referred at the request of parents or doctors. Students can also self-refer.

Before meeting with the Counsellor, it is important that a conversation is held with the student and a clear picture of the relating concerns gathered. Helpful information might relate to particular situations that seem to trigger the referring concerns, something about the general demeanour of the student and what has already been tried and the result/outcome.

On receiving this information our Counsellor will make contact with the student to agree a time to meet. And, if appropriate, a regular weekly session is offered.

Meet the team



Designated Safeguarding Lead - Miss Baker

Safeguarding Officer (Non-Teaching) Miss Henry

Deputy Head of 6th Form - 6th Form Safeguarding Lead - Miss Harry

Deputy DSLs - Mr Dixon, Mrs Woodworth-Sturla, Mrs Bhag

Heads of House - Miss Trafford, Mrs Minton, Mr McKenzie and Miss Shuttleworth

House Support Managers - Ms Bhatti, Miss Gorringe, Ms Champion and Mr Dieckmann

“Outstanding” safeguarding practice at OSA - Audit in December 2019

We work closely with our parent/carer community to educate and update on any Safeguarding issues that arise and to offer support and advice when needed. Our curriculum offers the scope to educate our students about safety in school and out in the community.

We have close links with local agencies to support our students and their families with a broad range of topics ranging from Mental Health to exploitation.



We work with partners in our local community to safeguard and minimise risk for our students in the local community. PC Lee-Anne Bury (TVP) is our 'Safer Schools Police Officer' and has been working closely with the DSL and some of our students since April 2020 when she was

partnered with the school. PC Bury offers 1:1 and group interventions for our students. Her role is to advise and assist schools in safeguarding young people to provide the best outcomes for their future.



OSA began our BeKind campaign in February 2020 where assemblies marked the start of the programme. All students were reminded of the meaning of kindness, how to support others in being kind and actions were set by tutor groups

to demonstrate kindness in and out of school. This then carried on into the school lockdown period where students were set 'kindness' challenges to complete at home – it was lovely to see reports back of kind actions happening across the community. Kindness is one of our key priorities at OSA and our students pride themselves on 'being kind'.

Trusted Adult

All students at Oxford Spires Academy are encouraged to identify a 'trusted adult'. This is to ensure that should there be a time in which the student needs some advice, someone to talk to if they are struggling with anything or just general support, there is someone they can approach to share this with. This support package can vary from having someone to listen, to getting longer term support and sometimes professional help for the student.



Oxford Health
NHS Foundation Trust



OSCB
Oxfordshire
Safeguarding
Children Board



The Mental Health in Schools Team (MHST) began work with us in September 2019. The MHST were set up by the government green paper on young people and mental health. The MHST aim to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in a school environment through a variety of ways including mental health interventions; assemblies; workshops and groups to promote wellbeing and training to school staff. In addition to this provision, we also had parent workshops, shared resources provided by MHST to assist and educate our families and worked with many of our students.

Student concerns



We encourage all students to report any concerns that they have around the safety of themselves or others.

We aim to instil a community where it is okay to tell and reach

out for support. There are several avenues which students can use to report concerns. Alongside the strong connections our students build up with the House System, our students can visit the Safeguarding team or use one of the 'whisper boxes' on site - this allows them to post their concern anonymously if they wish. We also have a 'whisper' button on the student portal which offers the opportunity to report from out of school if the student feels more comfortable with this.

The whisper box is outside L7, and also be accessed via the school website and student portal.

Training for staff

Staff have a three-yearly cycle of Safeguarding training led by the DSL and in addition to this have refresher training at the start of the academic year.

Safeguarding is a strong part of the culture and ethos at OSA and safeguarding messages, statutory guidance and updates and reminders are provided to staff on a weekly basis.

The pastoral and Safeguarding teams are all trained to Level 3 and are involved in key safeguarding update training throughout the year. Based on the back of the Ofsted review into sexual abuse and sexual harassment in schools, substantial training has been given to all staff here at OSA to raise awareness and understand that we must all be of the attitude that 'it could happen here'.