

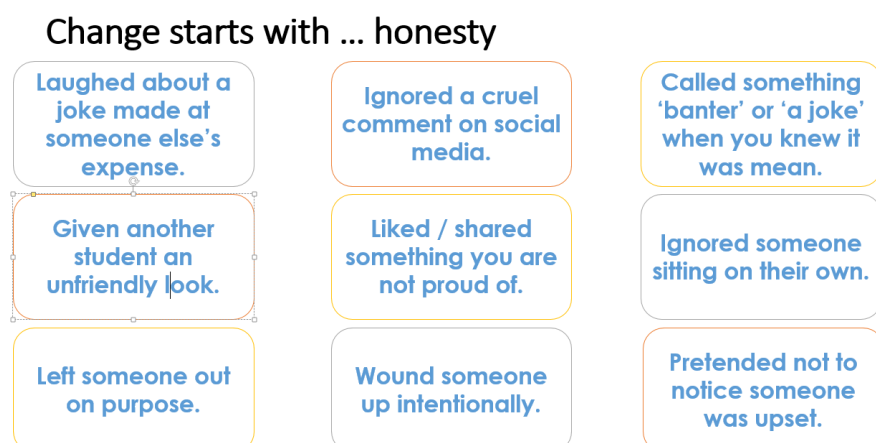
Dear Parent/Carer,

Please find below our welfare and safeguarding bulletin.

Anti-Bullying

Last week was anti-bullying week with the theme being 'Change starts with us.' As a school we will not tolerate any form of bullying. One of the Student Leadership responsibilities last year was to review the Anti Bullying policy for the school and to create a vision for the ethos of Poynton High School. This year, we reflected on the anti-bullying alliance theme of 'change starts with us'. As staff, our commitment is that we are asking all students to complete an online questionnaire about life at Poynton High School and we will be coming back to the students in the New Year with student feedback and an action plan moving forward.

We asked the students' commitment to 'change starts with us' to be honesty and reflecting on small changes they could make. We discussed the information on the slide below and students thought about whether they had ever done some of these things just without thinking about the bigger impact.



As a school we are very proud of our students' honesty, respect and support of each other. Our Youth Pride Network continues to promote equality and the promotion of strategies to ensure that we celebrate the diversity of our school community. Our Youth Pride network group of students work to ensure all staff, students, governors and visitors at PHS are treated equally and fairly. This year they have done some significant work with Cheshire East Council on reviewing their policies to ensure they meet the equality act. The also received a special mention in the safeguarding children in an education setting in Cheshire East's annual report to the local authority.

Parental Welfare Information Evenings

Last year Miss Long our Director of Welfare ran two information evenings. Both evenings linked to work our students had been doing on our Student Development Days. Positive feedback was received from parents regarding the 'hearing loss' talk and the second talk on the miss-use of substances.

In the spring term we will be inviting parents to an information evening regarding supporting young people with anxiety. If there are any further welfare topics you would like information evenings on please let us know via studentsupport@phs.cheshire.sch.uk

Christmas Charity Collection

Following another successful collection last year we will be again supporting our local foodbank with our Christmas collection. In form time next, week the focus is giving our students an understanding of the work of our local food bank and the support they need. Last year it was surprising for the students to learn that the food bank supported 131 families in Poynton last year. We are asking all students to bring in items we can donate to the foodbank. Below is a picture of our fantastic collection plus a list of items which would be helpful.



Tins of fruit, meat, fish or vegetables
Soup
Pasta
Cereal
Biscuits
Tea, Coffee and long-life milk.
Shampoo/shower gel, etc
Tooth paste
Baby wipes

Christmas Jumper Day

We will also be supporting the 'Save the Children' Christmas Jumper day on Friday 13th December. Students can wear their best Christmas jumper to school instead of their blazer in return for a donation of £1 to 'Save the Children' There will be a prize for the best Christmas jumper.



East Cheshire Hospice – Santa Dash

Students in Key Stage 3 will be involved in the 'Santa Dash' event this December in support of East Cheshire Hospice. During their PE lessons they will complete a sponsored run. It is a great event and even the PE staff get involved in their Santa outfits! Sponsor forms will be sent home at the start of December.



Thank you in advance for all your support with our charity events this December.

Energy drinks

It has been raised by staff that some students have started bringing energy drinks in to school. Research indicates that due to the high levels of caffeine in these drinks they should not be consumed by children. As a school, we have shared with the students that these drinks can not be brought into school and will be confiscated if they do so. This includes drinks such as Lucozade, Mountain Dew Energy, Red Bull, Monster and Relentless.

Online safety

Below is a reminder of the age restrictions regarding the use of social media. In school we do not allow students to use their mobile phone but we thought this information might be useful for a parent/carer



Student Leadership team – Year 7 applications

After Christmas we will be inviting students from Year 7 to apply for a position on the student leadership team. Students will be responsible for taking the views, concerns and ideas of their fellow students and presenting them to Miss Holyland and Mr Dean in student leadership meetings. Students wishing to be considered for a place on the student Leadership team will need to apply in writing on the official application form. These applications will be considered and shortlisted by Miss Holyland and Mr Dean.

Student Council

This half term we are looking to 'recruit' a student from each form to be the Form Representative for their form. Their main role would be to represent their form's views on a wide range of school issues and take them to the Year Team Council meeting which will be held every half term.

Students need to let their tutor know if they would like to be a Form Rep.

Environmental Strategy

Following student feedback and our want to encourage everyone in our school community to take responsibility for their impact on our environment this half term we have developed the 'PHS Environmental Positive Impact Strategy' it has been formulated through consultation with students, staff, governors and local community representatives. It represents the start of a strategy which we hope will raise awareness, improve quality of educational understanding, reduce our carbon footprint and to promote a healthy and sustainable existence in our community.

We will keep you updated over the coming months with our progress.

PTA

We are very grateful to our PTA for all their support, feedback on the school and fundraising. The PTA are always looking to welcome new members to the team. The next meetings are on:

- Monday 13th January
- Monday 2nd March
- Monday 27th April
- Monday 8th June

Contact Reference Table

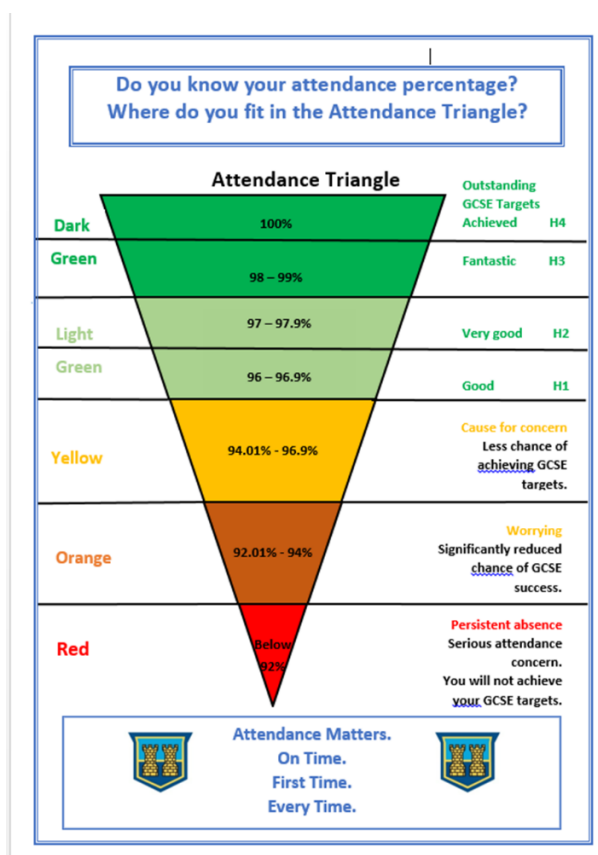
| Issue | Who to contact | How |
|--|---|---|
| Any safeguarding concern | Miss Catherine Holyland is the Safeguarding Lead or Mrs Sue Warburton is the Deputy Safeguarding Lead | Via reception 01625 871811 safeguarding@phs.cheshire.sch.uk |
| Welfare concerns e.g. Friendship issues, cyber bullying | The first point of contact would be the Welfare Lead for your child's year group. | Year 7 Miss Gyves KGY@phs.cheshire.sch.uk Year 8&9 Miss L Swaffer- LSW@phs.cheshire.sch.uk Year 10&11 Mrs Handby- ahandby@phs.cheshire.sch.uk or via studentsupport@phs.cheshire.sch.uk |
| Concerns about your child's progress in a particular subject | Class teacher initially, but please contact the Director of Learning for the subject team if this does not resolve the issue. | E-mail info@phs.cheshire.sch.uk and in the title please write the name of the teacher concerned. |
| Concerns about your child's general progress | Director of Learning for your child's year group | Year 7 Mr E Latch erl@phs.cheshire.sch.uk Year 8&9 Miss E Keaveney EKE@phs.cheshire.sch.uk Year 10&11 Mrs R Dempsey RDE@phs.cheshire.sch.uk |
| Information on how to support your child's learning e.g. revision guides | Director of Learning for your child's year group | Year 7 Mr E Latch erl@phs.cheshire.sch.uk Year 8&9 Miss E Keaveney EKE@phs.cheshire.sch.uk Year 10&11 Mrs R Dempsey RDE@phs.cheshire.sch.uk |
| Queries about home learning | Class teacher initially, but please contact the Director of Learning for the subject if this does not resolve the issue. | E-mail info@phs.cheshire.sch.uk and in the title please write the name of the teacher concerned. |
| Questions about uniform | Welfare Lead | studentsupport@phs.cheshire.sch.uk 01625871811 |

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| Questions about school transport | Mrs J Sykes Business and Operations Manager | jsykes@phs.cheshire.sch.uk 01625 871811 |
| Reporting absence or other queries relating to attendance. | Attendance Officer Mrs D Whyte | dwhyte@phs.cheshire.sch.uk 01625 871811 and follow the instructions on the recorded message |
| Information about medical care and support | Teenage and Family worker Mrs S Warburton | swarburton@phs.cheshire.sch.uk 01625 871811 |
| Concern about a member of staff | Mrs J Sykes Business and Operations Manager | jsykes@phs.cheshire.sch.uk Via reception 01625 871811 |
| Questions relating to the school curriculum and assessment | Deputy Head teacher Mr M Dean | mgd@phs.cheshire.sch.uk Via reception on 01625 871711 |

Ordinarily, you can expect a response dependant on the enquiry within a working week of 48 hours.

Attendance

Our current whole school attendance is 96.4% which is outstanding. Excellent attendance is essential for students to achieve their academic potential. Please see below the attendance chart we are using with the students to explain why outstanding attendance is necessary.



Where a student is unable to attend school due to illness or other sudden reason, parents should telephone the school, between 8.00am and 8.45am on the first day of absence, giving an indication of the anticipated length of absence. If the absence extends beyond this time a second call should be made. The parents of students who are absent and for whom we have not received an explanation will be contacted to confirm the reason for the absence within 24 hours.

We ask for parental support in ensuring that family holidays **are not** taken during term time. The link between educational attainment and school attendance is well proven and we do want to instil in our young people the message that full attendance at school is extremely important for their future educational success.

If possible all medical appointments should be made out of school hours. If it is necessary for the appointment to be in the school day we do expect students to come in to school prior to the appointment or return to school following the appointment.

In line with DFE policy the school's position is that leave of absence in term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances such as attendance at family weddings, funerals, educational examinations or participation in religious observance and only then if attendance is over 95%.

Availability of cheap holidays and overlap with the beginning and end of term will not be accepted as exceptional circumstances.

If school or external examinations are missed, students will not be able to take them at a later date.

Sixth Form students who receive the 16-19 Bursary will lose part of their payment for the period when holiday is taken.

Students are responsible for making sure they complete work missed through absence.

Parents should be aware that periods of unauthorised absence may lead to a fixed penalty notice being issued by the Education Welfare Service.

Please understand you may still receive calls if you have telephoned in regarding an absence, the aim of this to support our young people being in school.

Free School Meal Application

You can claim free school meals for each child who attends school in Cheshire East if you receive one of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

- Child Tax Credit - as long as you have a yearly household income of less than £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) and do not get Working Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal

You can apply by telephoning 0300 123 5012 or online at

http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free_school_meals.aspx

If your child was to receive free school their money is put onto their account automatically and therefore they follow the same process as ever other child.

Arrangements for closure of the school due to extreme weather.

If in exceptional circumstances we have to close the school all information will be on the school website. The radio station we share closure information with is Silk FM. We will only close the school during the school day if the adverse weather conditions may put our students at risk if their travel home was to be delayed. Again all updates will be on the school website and school twitter page.

Bike safety

This time of year, as the nights draw in, it is vital that your child is kitted up with reflective clothing and appropriate lights and reflectors for their bike. It is recommended that they:

- Wear reflective clothing
- Wear a helmet
- Keep the bike clean and well maintained
- Have lights on their bike - it is illegal to ride a bike in the dark without lights
- Do not ride their bike while listening to music on ear phones

Policies.

This term the following policies have been reviewed by the Governing body.

- Safeguarding
- Behaviour
- Medicines
- Local SEND offer

All school policies can be found on the school website <https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/aboutus/school-policies> or if you require a paper copy please ask at reception and they will be happy to help.

Useful websites – to access the websites below, please click on the images



Free, safe and anonymous
online support for young people



0800 77 66 00 talktofrank.com
Friendly, confidential drugs advice



**DISRESPECT
NOBODY**

Guidance on Healthy relationships,
consent and sexting



Mental Health
Foundation

70 YEARS

This site aims to help you understand more about self-harm and what to do if you are worried about yourself or someone else. It explains what self-harm is, what to do if you or someone you know is self-harming and how to get help.



**Cheshire East
Information Advice & Support**

A service for children and young people who have Special Educational Needs or Disability and their families