

# SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is a key priority in all schools and colleges. All adults who work at Unity College are trained in Child Protection and Safeguarding. They know what to do if they are worried about a student.

Unity College also has a large Student Support Team which gives lots of additional support when students need it. They include House Leaders, PD Tutors, SEN, Signpost Team, Attendance Team and Behaviour Managers. We also have people who come into college e.g. nurses, counsellors etc.

We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and will follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support and protection.

## PREVENT

### What is the Prevent Duty?

This became law in 2005 — All schools and childcare providers must have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism.

The government has defined extremism in The Prevent Strategy as:

“Vocal or active opposition to Fundamental British Values, including individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.”

**DEMOCRACY** - Making decisions together, for example giving opportunities to develop enquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued.

**RULE OF LAW** - Understanding rules matter as cited in Personal Social and Emotional development for example collaborating with children to create rules and codes of behaviour.

**INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY** - Freedom for all, for example reflecting on their differences and understanding we are free to have different opinions.

**MUTUAL RESPECT AND TOLERANCE** - Treat others as you want to be treated, for example sharing and respecting other's opinions.

Unity College addresses the Fundamental British Values through the ID curriculum and all staff are trained and know what to do if they have any concerns about students.

Ofsted visited us on 30 January 2018 and identified that attendance is a concern for some students. There will be a huge focus over the coming months on improving attendance. A reminder that holidays taken in term time **will not** be authorised and parents will face a fixed penalty notice if holidays are taken during term time.

## EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

<b>100% Attendance</b>	<b>0 Days Missed</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>95% Attendance</b>	<b>9 days of Absence 1 Week and 4 days of Learning Missed</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>
<b>90% Attendance</b>	<b>19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>85% Attendance</b>	<b>28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed</b>	<b>Very Poor</b>
<b>80% Attendance</b>	<b>38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed</b>	<b>Unacceptable</b>
<b>75% Attendance</b>	<b>46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed</b>	<b>Unacceptable</b>

**Unity College are having a BIG push on attendance.**

**Make sure you keep a check on your**

**% attendance weekly.**

**There will be prizes to be won and**

**attendance leagues in college.**

**Every school day counts! Attendance matters!**

The majority of children have access to some form of technology. It is therefore important that we make sure they are safe when they are online and using mobile devices. It is important as parents to know what your child is doing, although this is sometimes very difficult as technology moves on so quickly and children are usually steps ahead of us. The following information is aimed at helping you as parents, to understand what is out there so you can **help your child remain safe online**.

## SEXTING: THE NEW RULES

### What is Sexting?

This refers to images and video footage that is either owned, shared or created by young people under the age of 18.

**Sexting is illegal** - but that doesn't mean a criminal conviction.

Even though it is legal to have sex at 16, it is illegal to create or share sexually explicit images of people under the age of 18, even if the person in the picture is you.

The law was designed to protect children (In the UK, this is anyone under the age of 18) from adult sexual predators, not to criminalise teenagers for exploring their sexual feelings.

Previously, if a school found out pupils under 18 had been sharing such images, even consensually between partners, they had to inform the police.

The guidance now advises that if the school believes that coercion or abuse has not occurred, they can handle the incident internally.

If the school does refer the incident to the police, they will investigate and it may result in a criminal conviction or, more likely, become what is known as an outcome 21.

### GAME RATINGS

Since 2012, age-rating video games has been the responsibility of the Video Standards Council (VSC), which uses the PEGI system for classification.

PEGI 3 Games given this rating are suitable for all age groups. Could contain comic violence and natural, non-sexual nudity.

PEGI 7 A game that would normally be rated PEGI 3 but contains some possibly frightening content. Any violence must be unrealistic, often directed towards fantasy characters.

PEGI 12 games could include sexual innuendo, some violence, including graphic injuries to fantasy characters and mild bad language.

PEGI 16 The game may feature a lot of death and injury to human characters. It could also include sex, swearing, drugs, smoking, glamorised crime and alcohol.

PEGI 18 Adult classification could include sexual threat and violence, decapitation, visible genitals, torture, how to commit crime, dismemberment and drug taking.

For more about PEGI ratings, visit [www.videostandards.org.uk](http://www.videostandards.org.uk)

# SOCIAL MEDIA, BODY IMAGE AND THE PRESSURE TO LOOK 'JUST RIGHT'

Social media can be a positive tool to help young people develop. But constantly chasing 'likes' can make them feel insecure.

Social media now acts as an outlet for defining who we are, and as a tool for comparing our lives with others - which can have a direct effect on self-worth and self-esteem.

Selfie culture means young people are 'fixing themselves' by editing and re-editing their images to get maximum approval. But more often than not, they cannot live up to their own creations and their images are often driven by achieving unrealistic social media hashtags.

Constant posting may also open them up to receiving more negative comments online than compliments. They are also performing to an audience they don't necessarily know, which leaves them vulnerable.

So while there are many benefits to social media. It's important that you discuss with your children the importance of using it in a healthy way.

What can parents do?:-

You need to talk to your children about the impact of seeking approval from the online world, and comparing their lives to other people's lives.

You must help them mentally disconnect from the constructed identities they have created online and allow them to gain the freedom to know who they really are.

As parents you can help remind them not to put all their self-esteem eggs in one basket, and to focus on other attributes other than their appearance.

You also need to stress the potential effects that constant communication can have on their sleep and their health, and help them make more informed choices about physically disconnecting by switching off at night.

We must value their mental health as much as their physical wellbeing, and help them learn to use social media as a tool for growth and development.

## **BRITISH BOARD OF FILM CLASSIFICATIONS (BBFC)**

**Parents keep an eye on what your children are watching:**

### **FILM RATING GUIDES**



Generally suitable for children aged 4 and older.



In general, should not unsettle a child aged 8 or over.



For cinema films only, where the content is generally suitable for children aged 12 or over, but an adult may take a younger child to see the film if they think it is suitable for them. The equivalent rating for DVDs and Blu-ray discs.



No-one under 15 may see a film in a cinema or buy a DVD or Blu-ray disc rated 15.



No-one under 18 may see a film in a cinema or buy a DVD or Blu-ray disc rated 18.