



28th March 2025

STATION ROAD KNOWLE SOLIHULL B93 0PT
01564 773 348
WWW.ARDEN.SOLIHULL.SCH.UK

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well.

You may be aware of the recent Netflix series 'Adolescence', which has sparked discussions about the challenges faced by young people today. The series portrays themes of peer pressure, mental health, identity, and online safety—topics that can be both thought-provoking and concerning for parents and educators alike. While such portrayals may be dramatic, they highlight issues that our safeguarding team has long been aware of.

Please be assured that safeguarding and student well-being remain our highest priorities. Our staff are trained to support students through these challenges, and we continue to provide a safe and nurturing environment where they can seek guidance and support. We encourage open dialogue between students, parents, and staff to ensure that every young person feels heard and supported.

To further assist you in understanding the evolving language and communication styles of young people, we are sharing a help sheet titled 'Hidden Codes' and information about 'Incel Culture'. This resource provides insight into common phrases, slang, and online terminology that young people use, helping you to better understand their conversations and concerns. By familiarising yourself with this language, you can engage in more meaningful discussions with your child and be better equipped to notice potential issues.

If you have any concerns or would like additional guidance, please do not hesitate to reach out to our safeguarding team:

Mr N Burke - Deputy Headteacher
Mr D Last - Director of Pastoral Care (KS3)
Mrs K Berry - Director of Pastoral Care (KS4)
Mr S Anwar - SENCO
Mrs L Munn-Smith - Student Support Officer
Mr P Simpson - Assistant Headteacher for Personal Development

We will also be hosting an information evening here at Arden organised by Gemma Thelwell, Headteacher at Dorrige Primary School, on Wednesday 21st May at 6.30pm. We will explore the risks of early smartphone use and offer practical advice on how parents can take action. You will hear from experts including Dr Claire Lunham (Senior Education Psychologist), Secondary School teacher and Safeguarding Specialist, Susan Dunigan, founder of 'The Enlightened Parent', as well as school leaders and Police. To secure your seat at the meeting, please register for tickets via the following Eventbrite link: [Smartphone Information Evening](#).

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a safe and supportive environment for our students.

Best regards,

Mr N Burke
Deputy Headteacher

