



Dear Parent/Carer

Supporting children's mental health

We are delighted to share with you that Swanshurst has chosen to work towards being accredited with the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools Award. Carnegie School of Education based at Leeds Beckett University and Minds Ahead CIC have developed the School Mental Health Award to give schools a framework for whole school mental health development. By embracing the ideals of the award, we are demonstrating a deep commitment to working towards excellent practice as we place the mental health and wellbeing of our pupils at the core of our school, alongside our commitment to having a rich whole school culture where all members of our community can thrive. Further information about the award can be found on the Leeds Beckett University website: <http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/schoolmh>.

Keeping children safe online:

As part of our commitment to ensuring we deliver outstanding pastoral care we are constantly updated with alerts and information regarding how we can safeguard our pupils. Some online content, people and influencers can pose a risk to children's safety. We regularly talk to pupils about safe internet use, how to be alert to risks online, what to do if they are concerned and how to report something. Recent news has highlighted these risks, particularly how influenced young people are by what they see and who they follow online. Keeping children safe online requires a proactive approach at home. To support you in doing this, here is a very helpful set of resources for parents and carers: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#guides>

Technology changes rapidly, and our support of young people has to adapt accordingly. It is essential you monitor your child's use of social media and the content of what they are viewing online.

This year new virtual reality (VR) headsets, connected to Facebook's Metaverse have been released onto the marketplace. The Metaverse seeks to link users to the internet as a Virtual Entity through the use of Virtual Reality Headsets. This increases the danger children are exposed to online. To help you understand this new, fast changing issue the NSPCC has published a guide to both the Metaverse and VR headsets. To find out more please follow the link below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2022/christmas-vr-safety-advice-for-parents-metaverse/>

Keeping children safe on private transport:

We have recently been made aware that some of our pupils are arriving to school via unlicensed vehicles. If you are organising private transport for your child you must ensure drivers/ operators have had the relevant DBS and criminal record checks and that the vehicles being used are correctly registered and insured. Failing to do this potentially puts your child in danger. Please ensure you are taking the necessary precautions.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our children safe. If you require any further information or have questions relating to the updates above, please contact your child's Year Team on the relevant email address or phone extension number.

Yours sincerely

Miss C Place
Assistant Headteacher

Mr M Dunn
Headteacher