



Maidstone Grammar School
for Girls

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How MGGS Keeps You
Safe in School

2023-24

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A forward-thinking community with a tradition of excellence

How MGGS Keeps You Safe In School

MGGS is our school and we want it to be a safe place for everybody who works or studies here. Staff at MGGS will do everything they can to make sure you are protected and happy. This document is to help you understand how we aim to keep you safe in school and to help you decide what could be a “problem” and whom you should talk to.

All staff at school will do their utmost to:

- Protect you from harm
- Make sure nothing stops you being healthy or developing properly
- Make sure you are safely looked after
- Make sure you have the best life chances and can grow up happy and successful.

Staff will make the school a friendly, welcoming and supportive place to spend time in – somewhere you want to be; will be there for you to talk to if you need to and know who to ask for help; will give you safe messages during your time in school to help you learn how to look after yourself both online and in the real world, and will have all the right rules in place to look after you.

What is Abuse?

When someone hurts you it can be called abuse. This is when someone does something to you, including online, that is harmful, unpleasant or painful such as:

- If someone deliberately hits you, hurts you, injures you or humiliates you in different ways.
- If someone regularly says or does something that makes you feel bad about yourself or hurts your feelings which makes you feel scared, sad, upset or frightened.
- If someone shouts, threatens, hits or hurts someone you love whilst you are around which makes you scared, unhappy or worried.
- If someone doesn't take proper care of you: so you feel abandoned, lonely or neglected. You might not be able to eat or wash regularly, or you might not be able to come to school every day or on time.
- If someone touches you in a way that you don't like, or which makes you feel uncomfortable or worried.
- If someone makes you look at things which make you feel ashamed, embarrassed, uncomfortable or guilty. They may ask you to keep it a secret or give you presents.

Child on Child Abuse

Child on child abuse can be motivated by perceived difference e.g. on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability or other difference. It can result in you feeling isolated, intimidated and afraid. Child on child abuse can take form in different ways, physical, sexual, emotional, financial or controlling behaviour between children both online and face to face. If you are concerned about the actions of another student and are feeling afraid, speak to a member of the safeguarding team. Do not brush it off as banter or someone having a laugh.

Remember: abuse is *never* OK and if you are being or have been abused **it is not your fault**. You must always tell someone and they will help it to stop. You can also report a safeguarding concern via the school website

<https://www.mggs.org/key-information/how-mggs-keeps-you-safe/>

In And Out Of School

All of the staff at MGGS will aim to make sure the building is safe for you to learn in and spend time in. We will make sure that we know who everyone is in the school by asking visitors to sign in at reception. You will always know who a visitor to the school is because they will have signed in at reception and will display a lanyard which will be around their neck. The buildings, outside areas and fields will be as safe as they can be for you so that you don't hurt yourself, although accidents can happen if you are not careful! If the fire alarm goes off, or if the school needs to 'secure the building' you should know what to do and where to go. When you leave school to go on a trip, the staff will make sure they keep you safe.

If you and your parents decide that you wish to enlist the services of a private tutor, for whatever reason, during your time at MGGS, please ensure that you think carefully about the safest place to meet and work with him/her. We ensure that all staff and visitors at MGGS are checked and safe to work with children and it is advisable that the same procedures apply when having contact with educators in your home or outside of the school environment.

What We Will Do

At MGGS we will help you to keep safe in the following ways:

- We will do our best to spot if there is a problem. All of the staff in the school have had training in this.
- We will work with other people (including parents and carers) to help protect you and solve any problems you may have.
- We will always listen to you if you want to talk to us and need our help. We will always take you seriously.
- We will support and encourage you and will respect your wishes and views, and will provide information and advice whenever appropriate or necessary.

At MGGS you can talk to any member of staff, but you should know that there are a number of staff who are responsible for making sure you are safe and well cared for.

People in school who can help you:

- Mr Walker (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Any member of the Leadership Team
- Your Head of Study
- Your Form Tutor
- Learning Mentors

Do not be scared to tell someone straight away if you are worried about your own safety or well-being or that of a friend. We will always listen.

Useful Numbers and Websites

Childline: 0800 11 11

www.childline.org.uk

www.thinkuknow.co.uk