

19th March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Safeguarding, Social Media and Communication

I am writing to update you on the measures we take to keep our school community safe and on how we work in partnership with families to ensure everyone is supported and protected. The wellbeing of our whole community remains our top priority.

Safeguarding

At the end of next week, as we come to the close of term, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Rowe, our Designated Safeguarding Lead. Mrs Rowe has been a valued member of the TPA community for the past four years, during which time she has built strong and supportive relationships with many of our students and families. She has made an important contribution to the wellbeing and safeguarding of our school community, and we are very grateful for her dedication and care. We wish her every success and happiness in the future.

From next term, Mrs Begum will take on the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead. She will be supported by Mr O'Mara, Senior Deputy Safeguarding Lead, as well as Miss Martin, our Family Liaison Officer, and our wider team of senior staff who are trained in safeguarding. We are confident that this experienced team will continue to provide strong support for our students and families.

All our Safeguarding information can be found here: [safeguarding, The Portsmouth Academy](#). We also have our [Report It](#) section on the website for you to log any concerns with the team.

Social media and communication

It has come to our attention in recent weeks some posts have been shared on social media that make comments or accusations about staff and school matters. I understand this may worry you. I take this very seriously, especially when posts are abusive, threatening, untrue, or when they threaten to disrupt the work of the school in supporting our students.

I recognise that parents and carers may wish to raise concerns. However, I ask that these concerns are brought directly to the school through the appropriate channels so that they can be considered fairly, confidentially, and in line with school procedures. Publishing allegations or hostile commentary on social media is not an appropriate means of resolving concerns and may itself amount to a breach of the school's [behaviour/parent conduct policy](#).

The school must protect the wellbeing of staff and the whole school community. This means we may need to act if online messages are harmful, threatening, or untrue, or if they affect staff safety or the smooth running of the school. In some cases, online communications may fall within relevant criminal legislation, including the Communications Act 2003.

Schools also have safeguarding responsibilities where online behaviour raises wider welfare concerns for children.

For clarity, the school may consider a matter reportable where, for example, communication:

- is threatening, abusive, or intimidating
- is extremely offensive
- includes false accusations
- targets individual staff members or their families
- encourages others to be hostile towards staff or the school
- raises safeguarding concerns about a child or young person
- disrupts the safe running of the school

If students are involved in abusive social media posting, this will be dealt with through the school's behaviour policy, as set out on our website. We hope that any concerns can now be dealt with calmly and respectfully, for the good of our whole school community.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and recognise that together we continue to support the safety and wellbeing of our whole school community.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Botting
Executive Principal, The Portsmouth Academy