

Welcome to this week's SMRT Safeguarding Update...

WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

This edition includes information on what a hate crime is, SMRT's approach to hate crime, and the various ways in which it can be reported both inside and outside of school. Also includes a note from the police regarding recent phone snatches in Bristol.

National Hate Crime Awareness Week

This week is National Hate Crime awareness week.

At SMRT we take a zero-tolerance approach to any instance of hate speech and address bullying, discrimination and harassment through our [Anti-Bullying policy](#) and by educating students through our VIP curriculum, pastoral curriculum (tutor times), assemblies and specific special events.

We celebrate the backgrounds, cultures and protected characteristics of all students, giving opportunity for individual expression whilst protecting the rights of each student.

At SMRT an allegation of bullying, discrimination or harassment against any student or member of staff will be investigated thoroughly. The incident will be recorded appropriately (for example as a racist incident) and the victim supported. We want to create a climate in our school in which those facing bullying, discrimination and/or harassment feel able to report any and all incidents.

All staff and young people that witness an incident are encouraged to report, and all such reports will be followed up. The school will involve parents or carers when offering support to victims of serious incidents, and it may be appropriate to involve other agencies. The school will do everything in its power to provide an interpreter for victims and parents if necessary. Where the victim of an incident of bullying, discrimination and harassment is a member of staff, support is available through the School Leadership Team, Governors, their professional associations and/or through the non-managerial consultancy scheme, in addition to support from colleagues.

When dealing with incidents of bullying, discrimination and harassment, SMRT will:

- be guided by our alive model - we value justice and respect, we value trust and truth, and we are forgiving
- listen and obtain statements from the alleged victim, alleged perpetrator and witnesses
- remain calm
- accept the alleged victim's language and terminology
- remember that to report an incident may need considerable courage
- acknowledge the feelings of the victim(s)
- confirm they were right to make the disclosure
- show we understand the difficulty in discussing the matter

- offer immediate support; reassure the alleged victim that the matter will be treated seriously and that a full investigation will take place
- keep the alleged victim and alleged perpetrator as informed as we can throughout the process
- follow the appropriate policies
- do our best to review and learn from the incident

What is a *hate crime* and how to report it?

Hate crimes are any crimes that are targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards that person's:

- disability
- race or ethnicity
- religion or belief
- sexual orientation
- transgender identity

They can be committed against a person or property. A victim does not have to be a member of the group at which the hostility is targeted. In fact, anyone could be a victim of a hate crime.

What is a hate incident?

Hate incidents can feel like crimes to those who suffer them and often escalate to crimes or tension in a community. For this reason, the police are concerned about hate incidents, and you can use the True Vision website to report non-crime hate incidents. The police can only prosecute when the law is broken but can work with partners to try and prevent any escalation in seriousness.

Why should I report hate crime?

Hate crimes and incidents hurt; they can be confusing and frightening. By reporting them when they happen to you, you may be able to prevent these incidents from happening to someone else. You will also help the police understand the extent of hate crime in your local area so they can better respond to it. Reporting makes a difference - to you, your friends, and your life.

How can I report Hate Crime?

There are several ways you can report a hate crime, whether you have been a victim, a witness, or you are reporting on behalf of someone else:

1. In an emergency

Call 999 or 112. If you cannot make voice calls, you can now contact the 999 emergency services by SMS text from your mobile phone. However, you will only be able to use this service if you have registered with emergency-SMS first. See the [emergency-SMS website](#) for details.

2. Contact the police

You can speak to the police in confidence. You do not have to give your personal details, but please be aware the investigation and ability to prosecute the offender(s) is severely limited if the police cannot contact you. Contact your local police force, either by telephone or by visiting your local police station. Details on how to contact your local police force can be found at www.police.uk.

3. Report online

You can report a hate crime using [this website](#).

4. Self-reporting form

You can download the self-reporting form and send this to your local police force. The forms, including an Easy Read version, can be found on the '[Report a hate crime](#)' page.

5. Third party reporting centres

Local agencies such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, Community Voluntary Services etc can also report the incident on your behalf and provide you with advice and support. The '[Organisations that can help](#)' page has a list of those organisations that may be able to help you.

6. Crimestoppers

If you do not want to talk to the police or fill in the reporting forms, you can still report a hate crime by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via their website at www.crimestoppers-uk.org. Tell them what you know 100% anonymously.

Always. Speak up. Stop crime. Stay safe. More information can be found on the police-funded True Vision website: www.report-it.org.uk

As always, if you have any immediate concerns about safeguarding issues, students, or the school site, please get in touch via:

safeguarding@smrt.bristol.sch.uk