

Staying Safe @ Heber – April 2025

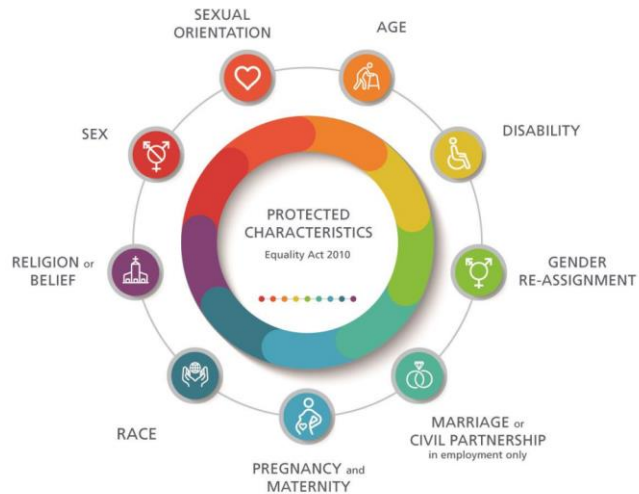
SPEAK OUT! STOP HATE

What is hate speech?

It is speech that attacks a person or a group on the basis of attributes such as race, religion, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Words, name-calling, hateful phrases, casual racist, misogynistic and homophobic, biphobic or transphobic comments - they all have an impact.

Everyone has the right to be protected from abuse. At Heber will not tolerate hostility or hate speech towards any members of our school community because of their disability, race, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity. We recognise these as protected characteristics, especially as we believe it's everyone's right to be happy at Heber.



What is online hate?

Online hate is the posting and sharing of hateful and prejudiced content against an individual, group or community. It can take the form of derogatory, demonising and dehumanising statements, threats, insults and slurs.

If a post is hostile towards a person's race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity, it could be viewed as hate speech. If it is serious enough, it may break the law, whether it is online or offline.

Online content, once posted, remains hosted on the Internet indefinitely. This means online hate is usually permanent.

Online hate can quickly spread and 'travel' across the web to a large audience and – the harms it causes can be immense.

Evidence indicates that the sharing of hateful attitudes online can motivate people to commit harmful acts in the real world, such as physical assault, verbal abuse, damage to property. Hateful content can even lead to tragedies such as shootings or bombings.

What can you do as parents?

Students and parents are increasingly reporting that on platforms such as TikTok, Snapchat and WhatsApp young people witness harmful hateful language which is dehumanising and incites hatred. As a school we strongly advise that you monitor and put restrictions on your child's social media access, as well as regularly discuss with your child why hate speech is unacceptable and how it can cause significant harm.

At Heber every student has the right to feel safe, to be who they are and to be treated well – in other words, to be happy at Heber.

If you are the victim of hate speech, report this to your Tutor, Year Leader or Trusted Adult. You can also report this on the online form on the safeguarding page of the School Website

Safeguarding, Mental Health & Well-being and Online Safety

Introduction

The staff at Bishop Heber High School is committed to helping keep our students safe. We ensure that students learn in a safe, caring and enriching environment. Students are taught how to keep themselves safe, to develop positive and healthy relationships, and how to avoid situations where they may be at risk.

We recognise and accept our statutory and moral responsibility to safeguard our students. Staff receive regular safeguarding training. Where students are identified as at risk of harm concerns are shared with other agencies including the police, health and children's services.

Staying Safe @ Heber form to report concerns

We have a clear and secure system for reporting and recording concerns. Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Ms U Mort umort@heber.org.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs S Vaughan svaughan@heber.org.uk

If you have any concerns about a student in our school do not hesitate to contact us.

We are delighted that next academic year the Anthony Walker Foundation will be joining us at our PSHCE day in November to deliver an assembly on how schools and society can tackle race and faith hate incidents and crimes and the importance of promoting anti-racism through allyship. The session will also focus on Anthony's story with the aim of understanding the origin, escalation and consequences of race hate incidents.



**ANTHONY
WALKER
FOUNDATION**

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If you witness hate speech at our school it is important to tell your Tutor, Year Leader or Trusted Adult. You can also report this on the online form on the safeguarding page of the School Website.

If you witness or are the victim of a race or religious hate crime you can also report this to the Anthony Walker Foundation:

[Anthony Walker Foundation](https://www.anthonywalkerfoundation.com)

www.anthonywalkerfoundation.com/speak-out