



Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me directly on:

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Mrs H Keelan-Edwards, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Our Local Safeguarding risks include:

Child on Child abuse – online

Child on Child abuse – sexual harassment/sexual violence

Child criminal exploitation/County Lines

Please note: Our local Police School Liaison Officer is **Martin Powell**

~~~ Party season following exams~~~

Teenage parties are a major source of worry for parents and with summer here and exams nearly at an end the party season is ramping up.

Prom is one of the most important events in the school calendar for many teenagers. It's a celebration of finishing school and a chance to say goodbye to their friends before they head off to sixth form, college, work or university.

However, despite all the glitz and glamour, prom/party season can be a challenging time for teens and parents alike.

**Know what your teen is doing**

Parties and gatherings are risky events at the best of times, it's vital that parents be aware that the risks are likely to be greater in the coming months. To help minimise these risks, do your best to monitor your teen. This is not about stopping them from going and partying with their friends – they need to do that. Just ensure that you have some idea of what they're actually doing. Only you can make decisions in this area, but here are some things to consider:

- **know where they are going and who they are going to be with**
- **take them to where they're supposedly going and pick them up**
- **agree on a curfew**
- **meet, or at the very least, talk to host parents of events your child is attending**
- **ask questions about alcohol and adult supervision to parents hosting parties your child is invited to**
- **ensure you do your homework around sleepovers. Do you know the parents? Will they be home? Is it a 'mixed sleepover'? Will there be supervision?**
- **have the name and contact number of at least one of their friends that they will be with when they go out**
- **monitor how much money they earn (or are given) and what they spend it on**

Whatever you do, it needs to be age-appropriate and change over time to match their stage of development.

## Hosting a teenage party at home

You as the adult have a **duty of care under the law** to everyone who enters your home.

**Ask for invitations not to be shared** on social media, and don't allow invitees to bring any one with them unless they have asked you first.

**Set clear rules and expectations about behaviour** (yours, theirs and their friends), the beginning and end times, and any restrictions. Be open to parents or carers of your teenager's friends discussing any questions with you and ask for help if you need it. Remember it takes a village to raise a child!

**Serving alcohol to minors is illegal.** If it's a no-alcohol party this should be stated in the invitation to avoid any confusion, especially when there are going to be teenagers over and under 18 present.

Ensure your teenager understands that **rules** are in place so everyone can enjoy themselves without unnecessary risks of getting hurt.

**Supervise without intruding.** Give your teenager and their friends plenty of space to enjoy themselves while maintaining a presence to ensure safety.

**Create a safe environment by securing any valuables** and anything likely to cause an injury to someone unfamiliar with your home. Establish boundaries within the house and outside, and have an adult check the out of bounds areas from time to time. Have first aid supplies available.

Have **one point of entry to the house** and consider asking a friendly-looking adult or two to welcome the arrivals and collect any bags, to prevent people bringing in contraband.

**Don't allow partygoers to leave and then return to your house.** Make sure they know that if are leaving, that means they are going home!

Shortly before the agreed end time, turn the music volume down and start the cleanup to give them a not-too-subtle message that it's nearly time to go.

## Useful Links

[A Parent's Guide to Teen Parties - HealthyChildren.org](#)

[Essential Festival Tips For Teenagers And Parents | HuffPost UK Parents \(huffingtonpost.co.uk\)](#)

## THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM AT RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

**MRS H KEELAN-EDWARDS** – Deputy Headteacher Pastoral and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

**MRS C DAY** – Assistant Headteacher/ Head of Boarding and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

**MR T FELL** – Assistant Headteacher/ Head of Sixth Form and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

**MRS E HEWISON** – Pastoral Support Officer and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)