



RESILIENCE • RESPECT • INTEGRITY • COMMUNITY

The Ongar Academy, Fyfield Road, Ongar, CM5 0AN

Tel: 01277 500990

Email: admin@theongaracademy.org • Website: www.theongaracademy.org

Director of Education for Ongar & Headteacher: Mr. A. Osborne

First Deputy Headteacher: Ms. E. Ruffles

Second Deputy Headteacher: Mr. C. Abrey

18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Safeguarding Students at The Ongar Academy

During any period of school closure, whether that be the school holidays or extenuating circumstances, it is imperative that all families in the community are aware of how to get help and support if the need arises.

At The Ongar Academy we always have a member of the Safeguarding Team available via email to offer support and advice both during term time and out of hours. This can be accessed by emailing toasafeguarding@theongaracademy.org and is the best method of contacting the school with safeguarding concerns during out of hours.

We have been overwhelmed by the support and willing of our community but we also wanted to outline how you can access support if you need it during periods of school closure.

Financial Support and Hardship

Some families due to unforeseen circumstances may find themselves in difficulties financially, due to lack of income or illness which we are aware could have an impact on you being able to provide food and shelter for your loved ones. Below is some information on how to access your **local foodbank**:

A foodbank is a free service that provides food for people who are struggling with money. The largest foodbank organisation in the UK is the [Trussell Trust](http://www.trusselltrust.org). It has over 1,200 foodbanks across the country. You can use their website <https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/>

In addition to this you can request **emergency funding from your council**. In some situations, you can apply to your council's local **welfare assistance scheme**. These schemes are usually available to people on a low income that are facing financial difficulty. Each local authority runs their own scheme with different qualifying criteria. Some offer small cash loans or grants, food vouchers, free used furniture and so on. More information can be found using this website: <https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/benefits/essential-living-fund/> or by calling 0300 7900124 between 8:45am – 5:15pm

Emotional Support

If your child requires any emotional support at any time, there are a number of different agencies that can help in addition to the safeguarding email address toasafeguarding@theongaracademy.org. This useful contact guide can be seen overleaf. If you require any further support or help please email the safeguarding address.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. E. Ruffles

Deputy Headteacher and Safeguarding Lead





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Useful Contact Information

Agency Name	Website	Telephone & Other information
YCT	www.yctsupport.com	The schools current counselling service T: 01279 414090 Text: 07786 208060 Tw: @YCT1 Fb: YCT
Young Minds	https://youngminds.org.uk	Text YM to 85258
Samaritans	https://www.samaritans.org	E: jo@samaritans.org T: 116 123
NSPCC	https://www.nspcc.org.uk	E: help@nspcc.org.uk T: 0808 800 5000
Mind	https://www.mind.org.uk	Infoline: 0300 123 3393 Text: 86463 E: info@mind.org.uk
Childline	https://www.childline.org.uk/	0800 1111
Kooth	https://www.kooth.com/	Online support at the following times Monday – Friday 12pm – 10pm Saturday – Sunday 6pm – 10pm
NHS Choices	https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/mental-health-services/how-to-access-mental-health-services/	T:111 T: 999 in an emergency
Headspace	https://www.headspace.com/	E: help@headspace.com

