

# Christmas Safeguarding Newsletter

SAFE START SCHOOL

WILLPOWER-NITATIVE-SUCCESS-EMPATHY-RESPECT



## Thankyou!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. Your partnership, understanding and commitment play a vital role in helping us keep children safe, supported and able to thrive. We recognise that family life can be especially busy and challenging at this time of year, and we truly appreciate the trust you place in us and the positive relationships we share. We wish you and your families a safe, peaceful and happy Christmas and look forward to continuing our work together in the New Year.

Jodie & The Team at Safe Start School.

## Local Foodbanks & Community Food Support.

### Local Foodbanks & Community Food Support

#### 📍 Foodbanks in Tameside

During winter and over Christmas, foodbanks provide emergency parcels for families in need – but most operate on a voucher/referral system. You'll usually need a local agency (e.g., Citizens Advice or children's centre) to issue a voucher before visiting

#### Available local foodbanks:

Tameside South & Longdendale Foodbank – Multiple sessions across Hyde/hattersley (voucher required).

The Trussell Trust Foodbank (Dukinfield) – Emergency food parcels available.)

The Trussell Trust Food Bank (Droylsden) – Regular sessions offering support.

St. Mary's Food Bank, Denton – Community-based food support with pre-booked slots.

★ Food pantry options: There are also smaller pantry/food club options in Dukinfield and Ashton where households can buy low-cost food each week – helping stretch budgets. [st-georges-hyde.tameside.sch.uk](http://st-georges-hyde.tameside.sch.uk)

💡 How to access help: Around Christmas, it's especially important to check last available session dates for foodbanks (often they close around 23–24 Dec and reopen in early January). Aim to get your voucher before the last session.

## Helplines & Support

### ☎️ Helplines & Support Over Christmas

#### 📞 Financial, Benefits & Practical Support

Citizens Advice Tameside: Help with benefits, debt, housing, foodbank vouchers and more. Call 0808 278 7805 (Mon–Fri, 9am–1pm) – free, confidential advice.

[tamesidesouthlongdendale.foodbank.org.uk+1](http://tamesidesouthlongdendale.foodbank.org.uk+1)

Help Through Hardship Line: 0808 208 2138 (Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm) – support to navigate financial difficulties and food access. [tamesidesouthlongdendale.foodbank.org.uk](http://tamesidesouthlongdendale.foodbank.org.uk)

Tameside Welfare Rights & Debt Advice: 0800 074 9985 – specialist help with debt and benefits. Tameside Council

👥 Many local warm spaces, libraries and community hubs also provide friendly drop-in support and places to stay warm during the colder months.

### 🎄 Free & HAF Holiday Activities

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme offers free festive activities and meals to children who are eligible for benefit-related free school meals

Activities include:

Christmas parties, games and celebrations

SEND-friendly sessions

Trips like bowling, ice skating and special themed events

Meet Father Christmas and receive a gift at some events ✨

### 🧠 Mental Health & Emotional Support (Available 24/7)

Support is available throughout Christmas if you or someone you care about needs someone to talk to: Samaritans: Free, confidential listening line – 116 123 anytime. Samaritans

Shout: 24/7 text support – text SHOUT to 85258 (free). Shout 85258

CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably): 0800 58 58 58 (daily 5pm–midnight). Mind

Papyrus HOPELINE247: 0800 068 4141 / text 07786 209697 – support for under-35s struggling with suicidal thoughts. Mind

NHS 111: Free non-emergency number for urgent health support (including mental health advice) – 111.

**Safeguarding support will remain in place over Christmas. An on-duty Designated Safeguarding Lead will be available – please check the Safe Start website for contact details. If a child is in immediate danger, call 999.**