



Welcome to TDMS Safeschool, the third newsletter providing information and support on Safeguarding.

## Risk Awareness

Students in the modern world face a myriad of risks in their everyday life from stranger contact on social media to gaming obsession. In this edition we would like to focus in on the risks to students of exploitation. This can be sexual exploitation or criminal exploitation or a combination. Although rare, this is a real risk and you will have seen cases on TV or in newspapers of children being groomed by older people to ultimately exploit them. We would like to bring your attention to what to look out for and how to get help if you suspect any signs by your child.



### What to look out for?

The indicators for both criminal and sexual exploitation are similar. Look out for:

- Your child becoming especially secretive and stops engaging with their usual friends, plus a sharp change in behaviour or extreme mood swings. They may be extra guarded and avoid eye contact.
- Any indicator that there is an association with older men or women or a sexual relationship with an older person.
- Your child has gone missing from home and then is defensive about their location and activities, returning home late or staying out all night
- Phone calls on their mobile or contact on their social media from people outside their normal social network
- They have new, expensive items which they couldn't normally afford e.g. a 2nd mobile phone, jewellery, iPods, game machines and or extra money
- They look tired or unwell and sleep at unusual hours or they appear withdrawn and scared.
- Marks or scars on their body which they try to conceal or mental health concerns

CSE perpetrators are both skilled and strategic; they aim to drive a wedge between you and your child, reducing lines of communication and emotional bonds. Remember the situation can escalate quickly so the sooner you seek advice, the quicker help can be given.

**If you have concerns contact the school Safeguarding Team for further assistance or contact Children's Services directly for support. Also look at PACE—a website developed to support parents for cases of sexual exploitation and Stop the traffic or the Children's Society providing advice on criminal exploitation.**

### Car Parking Request

We kindly ask that you do not park on the yellow zig-zag lines outside school. The yellow hatched lines are there for students' safety so they can view the road. It is a traffic offence to park on the lines and the PCSO will be checking! Please be safe and considerate.



### In school this week:

- Year 6 have been visited by the NSPCC for a talk about personal safety
- Year 9 and 10 gained good awareness in a drama production on County Lines about criminal exploitation.
- All years groups have had assemblies on self esteem and body image

### New Role:

#### Pastoral Support Worker

We are delighted that we have been able to appoint a part-time pastoral support worker starting school. The focus of the pastoral support worker will be to support parents and help students that are having problems in attending and engaging in school. If you think they can help your family please contact school and ask to speak to Mrs Cook our Attendance Officer.

