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Cam Hopton C of E Primary School – Safeguarding Newsletter

April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first edition of our parent safeguarding newsletter. This newsletter is designed to support parents in deepening their understanding of topical safeguarding issues that may affect their child, themselves or members of their local community.

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every single person who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

You will see on the right of this page information about who to speak to if you have concerns about a child's safety or welfare, however all our staff are trained in safeguarding if you want to discuss any concerns with them.

We will attach to each newsletter a parent information sheet about keeping children safe online. Please take the time to read these as they will help you to help your children stay safe online.

Any questions, please do ask.

Mrs Harris

Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Safeguarding Team

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the schools safeguarding team.



Becky Harris

Headteacher

Designated Safeguarding Lead



Melanie Skidmore

Deputy Headteacher

Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Kerry Whitney

EYFS Teacher/SENCO/SLT

Deputy Safeguarding Lead

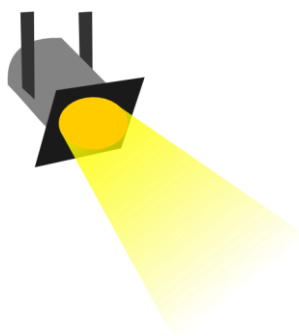


Christine Knights

Safeguarding Governor



Spotlight on: County lines and CCE



County lines is when gangs and organised crime groups exploit children to transport and sell drugs, normally between big cities where the exploiters are based to smaller towns, sometimes across county boundaries but also locally and within the borough. The children have dedicated mobile phone 'lines' for taking orders for drugs; children are used as they are less likely to be stopped by police, allowing adult dealers to avoid the risk of arrest. County lines is a form of criminal exploitation; this occurs where a person or a group of people takes advantage of their contact with and influence over a young person to coerce or manipulate them into carrying out a criminal act. Children as young as 6 are known to have been targeted by gangs for this purpose.

Young people may be recruited for county lines and other forms of criminal exploitation by a process of grooming: At the targeting stage, the exploiter befriends the young person and gains their trust. Young people may also be recruited through social media and/or through their peer group.

Some parents of young people who have been exploited through county lines involvement have reported that they went through a sudden change in behaviour. Possible indicators of involvement include:

- Unexplained money, clothes or gifts
- Frequent, unexplained phone calls
- New friendship circle that involves older children or adults
- Not attending school
- Carrying weapons

For more information on County lines and Child Criminal Exploitation, please follow the link:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/county-lines/>

Useful contacts:

The Trussell Trust Foodbank – our Family Support Worker, Mrs Hills, is able to access foodbank resources on parents' behalf. Please email fsw@camhopton.gloucs.sch.uk

[Young Minds](#): supporting children and young people's mental health

[Mind](#): adult mental health support and information

[Refuge](#): domestic abuse support

[Saneline Emotional Support](#): 0300 304 7000

[Swindon and Gloucestershire Mind](#): 01452 245338