



## SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

### PARENT UPDATE

APRIL ISSUE 12

#### Get involved in our Safeguarding Culture.

It has been yet another busy term for the safeguarding team at Hanley. We continue with our eradicating sexual harassment agenda and feel pleased with progress so far. However, there is still much to be done to embed our 'telling culture' where students feel comfortable to let us know about toxic behaviour that leads to discomfort.

We are preparing to launch another student questionnaire after Easter to gather more information on how we can improve things further and we are hoping to also gather parents voice on the issue.

I am looking to garner support from a group of parents/carers to work with me on safeguarding across the school. I am looking particularly for those who may have 2 or more children in the school in different year groups but mostly I am keen to work with anybody who is passionate about safeguarding in all its guises. If you are interested in knowing more, or would like to be involved then please get in touch [andersonkirbys@hanleycastlehs.org.uk](mailto:andersonkirbys@hanleycastlehs.org.uk) and we will find a time and date to meet together as a group in the summer term. Please do not feel like you need any particular expertise- being a parent / carer is all that's required!

Best wishes for a lovely Easter,

Sarah Anderson-Kirby

(Deputy head teacher and designated safeguarding lead)

#### THE THING'S I WISH MY PARENTS HAD KNOWN.

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has conducted a survey of children and young people called 'The Big Ask'. As a result of this survey and based on their voices, a guidance document has been produced.



Dame Rachel de Souza DBE  
Children's Commissioner for England



The overriding message of the guidance is ***talk early, talk often.***

The guidance shares information regarding Pornography; sharing nude images; sexualized bullying; editing photos and body image; peer pressure. The content covers a wide range of information and support from how to have conversations, what children find difficult to discuss to top tips from 16-21 year olds. There are also resources and further information via websites to support Parents in their conversations with pupils.

We drew your attention to this in the December issue as it is really informative guidance and signposts many websites for parents to help them understand current issues facing young people today. The work at Hanley Castle High School supports a zero tolerance approach to behaviours of sexual harassment and violence.

[KS3zerotolerance@hanleycastlehs.org.uk](mailto:KS3zerotolerance@hanleycastlehs.org.uk)

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## County Lines Awareness

This is designed to make professionals, parents/guardians aware of possible signs of a child being exploited.

County Lines is the term used to describe Organised Crime Gangs (OCG'S) who are based in more urban areas such as London, Birmingham and have criminal networks involved in transporting illegal drugs to smaller counties such as Worcestershire.

### What are the signs?

The key signs to look out for in a young person who maybe being exploited may include;

- Persistently going missing/truancy, exclusion, disengagement from school
- Decline in school results and performance
- Isolation from peers
- Having more clothes, mobile phones, or cash than normal
- Frequently going missing from home
- Using nicknames to refer to other people
- Speaking of gang names in the area
- A new boyfriend or girlfriend who may coerce or control the individual
- Changes in the way young people you might know dress
- Unexplained injuries
- Receiving a high volume of text messages/phone calls and being discrete
- Suspicious smell coming from the property
- Windows covered and curtains closed all the time



You can report any suspicious activity or concerns online <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/> alternatively you can contact 101.

If you wish to report anonymously you can do this by contacting Crime stoppers 0800 555 111 or <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously> your personal information will not be shared with the police and you will be kept anonymous.

Please don't hesitate to contact your Safer School Team should you need any further advice.

[saferschoolssw@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:saferschoolssw@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

## HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD?

There are many challenges that teenagers have to face as they move through secondary school. Coping with these can be very challenging both for children and their parents. There are many avenues of support available, categorised below, that can provide sources of information and advice. However, if you have any concerns about your child – particularly if this has been evident over a prolonged period of time, please do contact the relevant Key Stage Office.

Support information has been produced for Parents and published on the school website for you to access. It signposts many websites and is put together under headings for easy use. Please take a look.

The link is at the bottom of the Safeguarding Homepage in Latest Safeguarding News and information.

<https://www.hanleycastle.worcs.sch.uk/information-for-parents/safeguarding/>

## Helping your child understand about the war in Ukraine.

### Ukraine - Further links

Here are some additional resources to help adults support children with the issues surrounding the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Parent information and support pack:

<http://key.sc/3IKqZtw>

How to talk to your teenager about the invasion of Ukraine (BBC Bitesize/Anna Freud Centre)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbrdjsg>

How To Talk To Your Child About The War In Ukraine (YoungMinds)

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/top-tips-for-talking-to-your-young-person-about-the-events-in-ukraine/>

Worrying about Russia and Ukraine (Childline)

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-involved/articles/worrying-about-russia-ukraine/>

Worrying about war and conflict Sarah Dove (Phoenix Education Consultancy)

<https://www.phoenixgrouphq.com/tools>



## RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION FOR YEAR 9 STUDENTS

In the summer term we will begin our Relationship and Sex Education with Year 9 classes. RSE is, since September 2020, a legally mandatory part of the PSHE curriculum in all key stages, and we published the consultation on our RSE policy in the early part of 2020. The 'Relationship' part of the program (families, respectful relationships, friendships, being safe, the law) are compulsory, but parents and carers do have the right to ask that their child be withdrawn from the lessons that deal specifically with intimate and sexual relationships, contraception and sexual health. These latter lessons are delivered in single sex groups. As a school, we feel that these elements of the program are very important, and that all pupils should learn about them. If you have any questions, please feel free to email the Headteacher.

From Mr M. Duggins.

Personal and Social Development Lead

