

# St James CE Primary School

## Safeguarding Update Spring 1 2023-2024

### WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Team straight away.

The following members of staff are part of the Safeguarding Team at St James CE:

- Mrs Briers (DSL)
- Mrs Young (DDSL)
- Mrs Conant (DDSL)
- Mr Hardy (DDSL)

They can be contacted via the school office, or by telephone on 01744 678545

Safeguarding Governor:

Mr William Wiswell

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For a copy of our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding 2023 Policy, please visit the 'Safeguarding' page on our school website.

You can also contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01744 676767

**If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999.**



Dear Parents,

We are delighted to present the third edition of our Parent Safeguarding Newsletter. These newsletters are to assist you in developing a deeper understanding of safeguarding issues that may impact your child, yourself, or members of our local community.

Safeguarding children is more than just a commitment; it is the active and collective effort we take to promote the welfare of every child under our care and protect them from harm. We firmly believe that every person who interacts with children and families has a crucial role to play in creating a safe and nurturing environment. It's essential to know that all our staff members are extensively trained in safeguarding.

Whether you wish to discuss concerns, seek guidance, or simply have a conversation about your child's well-being, our staff are here for you. Don't hesitate to reach out. If you have any questions or require clarification on any safeguarding matters, please do not hesitate to ask.



Our school participates in a national scheme called 'Operation Encompass,' which is a joint partnership between Merseyside Police and schools.

One of the principles of Operation Encompass is that all incidents of domestic abuse are shared with schools, not just those where an offence can be identified. This system has been established to help schools provide in-school support to children who have been present at, exposed to, or involved in any domestic abuse incident.

We know that children can be significantly harmed, physically and/or emotionally, during these situations, and that it also negatively affects their learning and behaviour. Therefore, as part of the Operation Encompass procedure, and to help mitigate the resulting negative impact, the school receives an email from Merseyside Police after a child has been witness to, or involved in, any reported domestic abuse incident. We are then able to use this information to provide the right support to any child and their family as and when it is needed.



## Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)-including County Lines

Exploitation is a type of child abuse; it is never the fault of the child. It is often characterised by an imbalance of power, exchange and (the restriction or absence of) consent.

Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child (under the age of 18 years):

- (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or
- (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is when a child or young person is groomed by being given things, like gifts, drugs, money, status, attention, and affection. This is usually in exchange for carrying out a criminal activity for the benefit of the adult or peer carrying out the abuse.

**County Lines** is a form of child criminal exploitation in which abuser grooms and manipulate children into drug dealing. The 'line' refers to the mobile phone line which is used to control the young person delivering and selling the drugs. 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.

Indicators of involvement include:



**The video every parent must watch on how drugs gangs target children**

<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/modern-day-slavery-warning-video-14856953>

**For more information on County lines and Child Criminal Exploitation please follow the links:**

- **NSPCC** <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/county-lines>
- **The Children's Society** [www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/tackling-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/county-lines-resources](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/tackling-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/county-lines-resources)
- **Safe4me** [www.safe4me.co.uk/portfolio/child-criminal-exploitationcounty-lines](http://www.safe4me.co.uk/portfolio/child-criminal-exploitationcounty-lines) **NSPCC** [www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/gangs-criminal-exploitation](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/gangs-criminal-exploitation)
- **National Crime Agency** [www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crimethreats/drug-trafficking/county-lines](http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crimethreats/drug-trafficking/county-lines)

*Remember! You can always speak to your child's class teacher if you have any safeguarding concerns.*

## Discrimination



Discrimination is “treating someone unfairly because of who they are” (Citizens Advice, 2022). This means that a person is being treated differently or is put at a disadvantage because of someone else opinions or judgements of them.

By law, there are 9 characteristics that are protected from discrimination under the Act 2010: Age; Disability; Religion/Belief; Gender Reassignment; Marriage/Civil Partnership; Pregnancy/Maternity; Race/Ethnicity; Sex; Sexual Orientation.

If someone is targeted or treated unfairly because of one or more of these characteristics, then they are being unlawfully discriminated against. This also includes someone being treated differently because another person *thinks* characteristic, whether it is true or not.

At St James CE Primary School, we celebrate diversity and teach the importance of this to the pupils. We do not tolerate discrimination in any form, and it will always be challenged. When children use discriminatory language, we always follow this up with the pupil and the parent/carer and educate the pupil on why this language is not acceptable. Our Equality Information and Objectives can be found on our school website.

## Young Carers



A Young Carer is someone under 18 who is caring unpaid for a family member with a disability, illness, mental health condition, or drug or alcohol problem. They often take on practical and / or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult such as cooking, cleaning, or helping someone get dressed and move around. The Children’s Society suggests there are at least 800,000 young carers in the UK, but many do not realise they are a young carer.

Below is a link to a short dramatization about the life of a Young Carer. It’s called "Hidden" and stars St Helens Young Carers Ambassador, Jude Riordan (Sam from Coronation Street)/

<https://www.sthelensyoungcarers.org/hidden>

*Remember! You can always speak to your child’s class teacher if you have any safeguarding concerns.*