



Safeguarding newsletter

January 2024

The aim of the newsletter is to share, key related information, in an effort, to better improve communication between the Academy and you as parents / carers.



Staff training updates

Safeguarding is something that always keep changing and the staff here at Tudor Grange academy are always keen to attend any training that will help provide our school community with support, and our further knowledge

Recently the Safeguarding team have been to the DSL conference where many schools attended alongside the various agencies, we work with daily to explain any changes to the local offer and the support that is available for schools.

This was a very informative day and a great networking opportunity for all staff involved.

County Lines



Trapped in County Lines - Christina Gabbitas

For the past few years, one of the key issues in safeguarding has been that of the induction of children into criminal networks. Particularly networks focused on those who utilise children and young people, as couriers for the narcotics trade. Christina Gabbitas, is a children's author whose work 'No More Knives or County Lines' we have previously covered on the briefing. She has now released a sequel - 'Trapped in County Lines', which seeks to be an age-appropriate resource for secondary schools as part of their safeguarding curriculum. Her work has been highly praised by policing communities, safeguarding experts and young people. It's a great piece of work, and if you're interested please follow the link below to hear her thoughts on her latest book:

<https://youtu.be/3xczsAkvjLo>

Are you Emoji aware?

We all at some point use emojis in our text message and online.

Communicating with the young people in our lives is not always easy and we know it can sometimes feel like a challenge to keep up with the latest slang or trends.

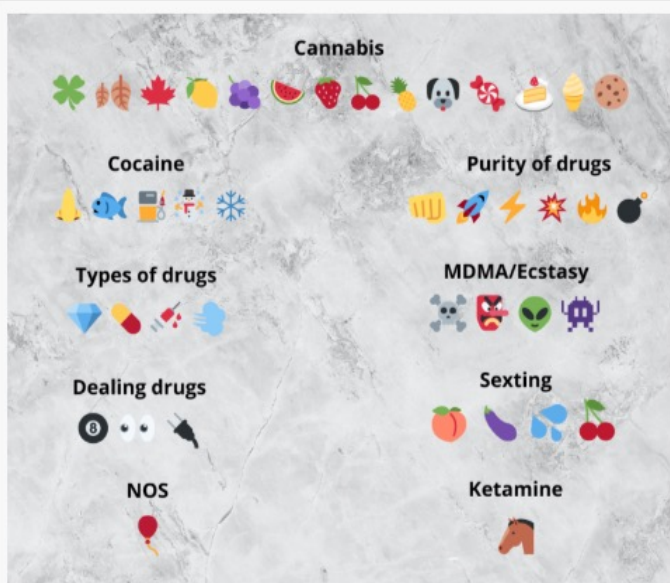
How teenagers talk to each other online is changing too, particularly with their use of emojis.

Previously straight-forward emojis can now take on hidden meanings and by trying to stay informed with the language they are using, it can help us to spot when they are in trouble.

Surrey Police Asks 'Are You Emoji Aware?'

Published on: 28 Dec, 2022

Updated on: 31 Dec, 2022



Are you emoji aware?

Support for Parents/Carers:

We would like you help and support in advertising/signposting your parents/carers to promote and encourage the use of the Parent-Line Service. This can be used to gain confidential, health advice for their child on 07480 635 496, Monday-Friday 8am-5pm



Online activity

Children now 'biggest perpetrators of sexual abuse against children'

- Police data shows 52% of alleged offenders in England and Wales are minors – a situation exacerbated by 'accessibility of violent porn'

Boys are watching violent porn on their smartphones then going on to attack girls, police have said, as new data showed children are now the biggest perpetrators of sexual abuse against other children

- In one case a child of four was referred to police after allegedly using a smartphone to upload an indecent image of a sibling. Police declined to give any more details.
- Ian Critchley, the NPCC lead for child protection, said: "This is predominantly a gender-based crime of boys committing offences against girls."

"I think that is being exacerbated by the accessibility of violent pornography and the ease with which violent pornography is accessible to boys and, therefore, a perception that is [normal] behaviour, and that person can carry out that behaviour that they are seeing online in the most violent way against other peers as well."

- "Clearly the accessibility to smartphones has just rocketed, not just in relation to 11- to 16-year-olds, but in relation to under-10s as well. That accessibility has really exacerbated that and I think this is a debate that does need to be had in our society."

A third of attacks take place within the family, the most common setting for abuse, and eight out of 10 victims knew their attacker.

Police said it is estimated as few as one in six offences are reported to them.

- The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) announced it was increasing the capacity and raising awareness of its helpline through which adults can report suspicions about child abuse. The charity last month said it was taking 14 months for a defendant in a child abuse case to stand trial after being charged, placing a greater strain on victims.

YOUNG MiNDS

How we can help

Father and son smiling and looking very happy together sitting by a wall
We know that being a parent or carer isn't always easy. Although it's often amazing and rewarding to watch your children or young people grow up, it can also be really hard work. Things might feel especially difficult if your child or young person is struggling with their mental health at the moment. Or if their mood and behaviour seem different, and you're not sure why or what you can do to help. But you are not alone.

We have lots of practical advice to help you support them – from encouraging them to open up, to navigating mental health services and finding them the right help. No matter what you're going through, things can get better.

Parents Helpline

We offer tailored information, advice and support to parents and carers who are concerned about their child or young person's mental health. You can speak to us over the phone, or chat to us online.

You can use our Helpline service if you are the parent or main carer of a child or young person aged 25 or under. It is available across the UK and is completely free.

0808 802 5544

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk>

Solihull teenagers shown the dangers of knife crime

TEENAGERS at Solihull College were told about the dangers of knife crime as seen by West Midlands Police. The force's Solihull Early Help team visited the college to speak about the risks of knife crime and how to stay safe.

The team put on 14 sessions, each lasted around and was delivered to over 100 students.

The main session was a presentation from PC Naiyer Khan, Young Persons Officer, which included discussions around knife crime, offensive weapons and joint enterprise.

Then 10 students were then selected to use virtual reality (VR headsets).

Here, they played the role of a young person in a park where a fight was going to happen. In each scenario they had to choose what they would do next, whether they would participate in it and how things changed if knives were involved.

West Midlands Police said: "As well as our operational activity to reduce the number of knives on the streets, we understand how important it is to have these conversations with young people in schools and colleges.

"The students found the sessions really positive and beneficial, encouraging open discussions around the reality of knife crime.

"The feedback was so positive that the team have been contacted by colleagues from Gloucestershire Police to learn more about our approach.

"We understand that conversations around knife crime can be difficult, but we need help from the community and parents in tackling knife crime.

"The thought of seeing your child in trouble, hurt or even worse is a parent's worst nightmare. So now is the right time to chat to your child about knife crime and the impact it can have."

West Midlands Police have put together some guidance to help parents have a conversation with youngsters to avoid any potential future situations where a knife may be involved.

For more information see the below website

lifeorknife.west-midlands.police.uk

<https://youtu.be/hr64u8mgu1c>