DUSSINDALE SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER





Summer Term June 2024

Your Safeguarding Team



Cas Bradley -Designated Safeguarding Lead Deputy Head Attendance Lead



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Consent

Last term, as part of our school values on being responsible, we discussed what the word "Consent" means.

When it comes to consent, you can teach your child at a young age that their body is their body and that nobody is allowed to do anything to them that they don't like.

It is important for our children to understand what this means and that they know how to get consent from their peers and what they can do if they feel uncomfortable. Empowering your child to make informed decisions about their bodies is crucial in preventing sexual abuse. It also teaches them to respect other people's boundaries.

Tips for Parents

- 1. Let children know that they are the bosses of their bodies.
- 2. Ask children to seek permission before touching someone. E.G. Can I give you a hug?
- 3. Have small talks with your child about they know.
- 4. Encourage your child to respect others personal space
- 5. Help them to learn that when someone says "no", that no means no.
- 6. Have clear boundaries that you would like your child to respect.



WHAT CAN I SAY WHEN I DO NOT GIVE CONSENT?

Here are some examples of how to say no

- No
- No, thank you
- Nah
- Nah, I'm good right now
- I don't feel like "it" right now
- Maybe another time
- I don't want "that"
- Ask me again later



Sextortion

There has been a significant increase/risk in a short period of time of this devastatingly blackmail trend across the country and around the world.

Findings released by the IWF in 2024 show that a record 392,660 reports of suspected child sexual abuse imagery were made in 2023, a 5% increase from 2022.

Sextortion is a financial cyber-enabled crime that exploits a young person's trust and seeks to control them through the threat of public humiliation, specifically through releasing nude images or semi-nude images to the public.

After the explicit imagery is captured by the sexual predator, it is used to blackmail the young person into sending more images, money, or in some cases, into recruiting more victims.

Images can be both real or generated by AI. It can happen to anyone, but it is particularly prevalent among teenagers and young adults.

The <u>National Crime Agency</u> has issued a warning in response to a global rise in financially motivated sexual extortion, commonly called 'sextortion.' The alert gives advice to safeguarding professionals and parents regarding the signs of sextortion, raising awareness and supporting children to seek help as well as support for victims. Click on link below for further information.

NCA issues warrning about sextortion

Advice for parents affected by sextortion

County Lines

Information for parents and carers of primary school-aged children.

What is County Lines and why do I need to know about it?

County Lines is a form of criminal exploitation involving the transport and sale of drugs. It can involve moving drugs and money from one street to the next, or from one end of the country to the other, and the people who do the 'running' are often children who have been targeted and groomed into doing so by criminal gangs. Drugs are advertised by text message on dedicated 'deal lines' and on social media.

Sadly, children as young as 7 have been known to be recruited by gangs who are involved in dru dealing and other criminal activity. Awareness is key, as is early intervention, and knowing how to seek help if you are concerned is important, too. Be particularly aware if your child has older siblings or spends a lot of time with older children when you're not present.

How do Criminals exploit children?

TARGET

Criminals will watch an area - e.g. children coming and going from school or hanging around a park - to see if they can spot a particularly vulnerable child. They will then strike up a friendship and get to know them before moving to the 'test' stage.

TEST

The criminal will offer gifts such as money, expensive trainers, a phone, and will aim to make the child feel special and part of the gang. They will then test the child's loyalty by asking them to run small errands or hold onto items for them, whilst rewarding this loyalty with more gifts.

TRAP

The criminal will now control the child by isolating them from their friends and family, making threats against them if the child tells anyone about what the gang does. They will demand payback for all the gifts previously given, which could include moving and selling drugs, and sexual exploitation. The child will now feel indebted and trapped.

How do I protect my child and what signs should I look out for?

Be curious about their friendship groups and where they are when they're not at school or at home. Make sure they know they can come to you if they are approached by new 'friends' when they are out and about, especially older people. Remind them about Childline as a source of support, too. If you hav concerns, share them with family members and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at your child's school. Signs could include changes in behaviour, being particularly active on and defensive about their phone, staying up late, and acquiring new clothes and jewellery: there are many more. Visit NSPCC for more information.

Support

unseenuk.org missingpeople.org.uk nspcc.org.uk Crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless

Report

You can report any information to the police via norfolk.police.uk or by calling us on 101. Always dial 999 in an emergency.



Who can I talk to?

All parents can feel stressed or unsure from time to time, or just need someone to talk to. But don't worry, there are lots of places where you can get different kinds of help. We've put together a list of some of the different places you might find helpful, and you could also talk to your GP, health visitor or your child's school nurse.

Parenting advice

13

Family Lives provides help and support on all aspects of parenting and family life, and runs Parentline. 0808 800 2222 familylives.org.uk

Parentline Scotland (Children 1st) 0800 028 2233 children1st.org.uk

Parentline NI

(Northern Ireland) 0808 8020 400 ci-ni.org.uk/parentline-ni

Family information services in

Wales provide information, support and guidance on all aspects of children and young people's services. Search: gov.wales/children-families

Parenting. Give it time is a website developed by the Welsh government offering practical parenting information, tips and activities. giveittime.gov.wales

Crv-sis provide help for parents of excessively crying, sleepless or demanding babies. Lines are open seven days a week, 9am-10pm. 08451 228669 cry-sis.org.uk

ParentClub Scotland is the Scottish Government's advice hub for parents in Scotland. parentclub.scot

Citizens Advice can advise on things like employment, housing and income issues which can cause stress in families. citizensadvice.org.uk

We're here for you, every day of the year

If you have any questions or worries, feel free to get in touch with us.

Our trained experts at the NSPCC helpline can listen to any worries you have about looking after your child, or any tough decisions you're facing.

Reading this guide may have also made you think about other children. Contact us if you're worried about any aspect of their safety, and we can help.

Call 0808 800 5000

Email help@nspcc.org.uk

Or talk to us online at nspcc.org.uk/help

Are you Separated or Separating?

Worried about your child getting caught in the middle? **Family Transitions Groups** can help

What parents have said -

"Has had significant benefits and an insight into how to overcome challenges with co parenting"

"The teachers (course leaders) were kind, thoughtful, helpful and supportive"

Completely Free! Five week online course. One session per week.

Monday 3rd June 09:30-11:30 Wednesday 5th June 18:00-20:00 Thursday 6th June 12:30-14:30 Monday 10th June 10:00-12:00 To book contact roxanne.mcdowell@norfolk.gov.uk

