



St Laurence School Staying Safe Guide #1 January 2018

This first edition of our staying safe information guide has been designed to help raise awareness of parents and carers about some current issues facing our students in their daily lives. I do hope it will help you in keeping your children safe whilst also serving to encourage some discussion at home. The digital format will allow you to open links to videos and articles enabling you to further understand some of the issues. We live in a world where anything is possible, please believe that your child may make poor choices and make themselves vulnerable at times. It is our aim to reduce this occurring amongst the students at St Laurence School.

Ultimately, if you have a safeguarding concern, please report it to your son / daughter's Head of House, tutor, any member of the school safeguarding team or indeed the Police.

Mr Will Penny

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Staying Safe Online

It can seem difficult to keep up-to-date with the technology that children use but it is vital that you stay as informed as possible so that you can help to keep your child safe. We are also dealing with a variety of cases regarding online behaviours of some of our students. In December you will have received a letter from me regarding an indecent video involving children that went viral nationally that Police wanted to warn children and parents about. What may seem innocent behaviour at the time by a student could well indeed be far from what it seems later on.

Are you aware that if a student / adult makes or distributes indecent photographs they are committing an offence that can carry a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment under Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978?

Or, does it concern you that your child has friends on Facebook and other social media platforms that they have never met and do not know?

If you are concerned about your child's online behaviour then more information and support is here:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/How-to-guides/

Child Sexual Exploitation

Whilst we may think that this could not happen in our area, we do know that it does – sometimes by people living in Wiltshire and sometimes by people travelling from larger cities to this area.

What is child sexual exploitation?

Sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse, in which a young person is manipulated, or forced into taking part in a sexual act. This could be as part of a seemingly consensual relationship, or in return for attention, affection, money, drugs, alcohol or somewhere to stay. The young person may think that their abuser is their friend, or even a boyfriend or girlfriend. But they will put them into dangerous situations, forcing the young person to do things they don't want to do. The abuser may physically or verbally threaten the young person or be violent towards them. They will control and manipulate them, and try to isolate them from friends and family.

Spotting the signs and more information:

1. http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/sexual_exploitation/about-cse/cse-spot-the-signs.htm
2. <http://paceuk.info/about-cse/>

Recreational Drug Use, Consumption of Alcohol and Smoking

Fitting in with other young people is important to many teenagers. Fitting in might mean experimenting, socialising, and bonding with friends. Students have described drugs, smoking / vaping and drinking alcohol as being part of this, saying that they were: 'Fun' and 'exciting', an 'interesting' thing to do with friends, as a way to enhance their experience, or simply a phase that young people go through. We are aware of recent situations where students have blacked out after vaping, passed out after drug use at weekends and put themselves at risk. If this happens by a main road or the River Avon it could be catastrophic.

For further advice:

1. www.healthtalk.org/young-peoples-experiences/drugs-and-alcohol/advice-young-people-about-drugs-and-alcohol
2. <http://www.talktofrank.com/>