

# SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

## WELCOME

Dear parents and carers, welcome to the Parent Safeguarding newsletter. We hope that you find the information included in this newsletter useful. Should you require any further information, please speak to our very friendly safeguarding team.

### Aims:

This safeguarding newsletter is aimed to enhance parental vigilance concerning child safety. It seeks to provide essential information on recognising signs of potential harm, particularly amidst the rising concerns of online abuse. Our goal is to empower parents and carers with knowledge and strategies for safeguarding children effectively, and knowing where to find help and support should it ever be needed.

## SAFEGUARDING TOPICS COVERED IN SCHOOL THIS MONTH:

- NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe
- PANTS rule
- Lockdown and Fire procedures
- Stranger Danger
- Disability Awareness

Our objective is to explore a diverse range of Safeguarding topics each month through various channels, including: whole school and class assemblies; PSHE and RSE curriculum; computing lessons in conjunction with our Digital Leaders; School Council and through consistent signage and posters displayed around the school.

## Our Safeguarding Team



Mrs Shepherd  
Designated  
Safeguarding  
Lead



Mrs Kinder  
Deputy  
Safeguarding  
Lead



Ms Nicholson  
Deputy  
Safeguarding  
Lead

If you have an urgent concern out of school hours, you can contact the safeguarding team by emailing [safeguarding@redwood.derby.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@redwood.derby.sch.uk)



## NEW DSL (DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD)

Mrs Shepherd is now our new Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL); however, the safeguarding and pastoral team remains unchanged.

You may speak to any member of staff regarding a child's welfare, or, if you prefer, you can consult with the pastoral and safeguarding team directly.



Mrs Claire Kinder  
Deputy Safeguarding  
Lead



Ms Rohanne Nicholson  
Deputy Safeguarding  
Lead



Mrs Roe  
Learning Mentor/Nurture  
Lead



Mrs Lesley Taylor  
Safeguarding Education  
Lead



Miss Beswick  
Learning Mentor



Mrs Ratcliffe  
Learning Mentor

# COUNTY LINES

The 2018 Home Office Serious Crime Strategy states the NPCC definition of a County Line is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move [and store] the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

A common feature in county lines drug supply is the exploitation of young and vulnerable people. The dealers will frequently target children and adults - often with mental health or addiction problems - to act as drug runners or move cash so they can stay under the radar of law enforcement.

In some cases the dealers will take over a local property, normally belonging to a vulnerable person, and use it to operate their criminal activity from. This is known as cuckooing. People exploited in this way will quite often be exposed to physical, mental and sexual abuse, and in some instances will be trafficked to areas a long way from home as part of the network's drug dealing business.

As we have seen in child sexual exploitation, children often don't see themselves as victims or realise they have been groomed to get involved in criminality. So it's important that we all play our part to understand county lines and speak out if we have concerns.

## HOW DO YOU KNOW IF COUNTY LINES DRUG DEALING IS HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA?

Some signs to look out for include:

- An increase in visitors and cars to a house or flat
- New faces appearing at the house or flat
- New and regularly changing residents (e.g different accents compared to local accent)
- Change in resident's mood and/or demeanour (e.g. secretive/ withdrawn/ aggressive/ emotional)
- Substance misuse and/or drug paraphernalia
- Changes in the way young people you might know dress
- Unexplained, sometimes unaffordable new things (e.g clothes, jewellery, cars etc)
- Residents or young people you know going missing, maybe for long periods of time
- Young people seen in different cars/taxis driven by unknown adults
- Young people seeming unfamiliar with your community or where they are
- Truancy, exclusion, disengagement from school
- An increase in anti-social behaviour in the community
- Unexplained injuries

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS?

The best advice is to trust your instincts. Even if someone isn't involved in county lines drug dealing, they may be being exploited in some other way, so it's always worth speaking out.

You can speak to your local police by dialling 101, or in an emergency 999.

If you think your own child or family member is involved, and you would rather remain anonymous, you can contact the independent charity [Crimestoppers](#) on 0800 555 111