

Bratton Primary School

Safeguarding Update – Summer Term 2023

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 Leads straight away.

SAY SOMETHING IF YOU SEE SOMETHING

The following members of staff are Designated Safeguarding Leads for Bratton Primary School:

- Mrs Williams (DSL)
- Mrs Callaway (DDSL)
- Mrs Luke (DDSL)

They can be contacted via the school office admin@bratton.wilts.sch.uk or by telephone on 01380 830511.

For a copy of our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding 2021 Policy, please visit the 'Policies' page on our school website

<https://www.bratton.wilts.sch.uk/>

Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome to our Summer Term Safeguarding Newsletter. In this letter, you will find information about county lines and how to keep your child safe whilst out and about during the Summer. It also includes the recently published dog safety code (further information can be found here <https://capt.org.uk/dogs-and-children/>) and some guidance around online safety and social media.

Kind regards
Emma Williams

What is County Lines?

As we approach the Summer holidays, children will be spending much more time outdoors and often later into the evenings too. As children's independence grows it is important to be aware of possible risks and how to support children should such risks pose themselves. One of these risks is county lines.

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation where urban gangs persuade, coerce or force children and young people to store drugs and money and/or transport them to suburban areas, market towns and coastal towns (Home Office, 2018). It can happen in any part of the UK and is against the law and a form of child abuse.

County lines gangs are highly organised criminal networks that use sophisticated, frequently evolving techniques to groom young people and evade capture by the police.

Perpetrators use children and young people to maximise profits and distance themselves from the criminal act of physically dealing drugs (National Crime agency, 2019). Young people do the majority of the work and take the most risk.

Know the signs of exploitation:

- Change in behaviour
- Signs of assault and/or malnutrition
- Access to numerous phones
- Use of unusual terms e.g. 'going country'
- Associating with gangs
- Unexplained bus or train tickets
- School truancy or going missing
- Unexplained gifts e.g. clothing, trainers, cash

Speak up. Stay safe.
Tell our charity what you know.

crimestoppers-uk.org

Crime Stoppers.
0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.

Supported by NetworkRail

The NSPCC has lots of further information which can be found here including recognising, responding and prevention advice.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/county-lines>

This link will take you to an information booklet for parents, it includes some of the signs to look out for and how to support your child.

<https://cscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/4206.1-County-lines-leaflet-final-web.pdf>

Stranger Danger

A stranger can be described as someone that we don't know or someone that we don't know well. It is ok to tell children that nearly all people are kind but that there are a small number of people who might not be. We cannot tell who is kind just by looking at them. Children need to know they must never go anywhere with a stranger or do anything for a stranger. It doesn't matter what they say to us, we should always tell the grown-up who looks after us if a stranger talks to us.

Basic Stranger Danger rules include:

- never go anywhere with a stranger
- never accept gifts or sweets from a stranger
- never get in a car with a stranger
- never go off on your own without telling your parents or a trusted adult
- tell your child it is okay to break the rules if they are in danger – e.g. encourage your child to YELL, KICK, SCREAM, LIE or RUN AWAY, if they feel they are in danger
- give your child a code word or sign that only you and your child (and another parent/carer) know. They can use it when they feel they are in danger but don't want other people to know
- tell your child to stay with their friends and not to go anywhere on their own.



If you are looking for some helpful websites and resources to teach your children about stranger danger, the following link may be helpful.

https://www.safety4kids.com.au/safety-zone_stranger-danger

Dog Safety Code

Be Alert

Always keep an eye on your children around dogs. Never leave them alone together.



Be Aware

Dogs use signals to tell us how they feel. What is your dog telling you?



Be Safe

Any dog can bite. Accidents happen fast.



Illustrations ©CattleDog Publishing

Are you dog safe? cfsg.org.uk/dog-safety

If you suspect a child is being abused or is in any danger of being abused please contact a Designated Safeguarding Lead or any member of staff.

You can also contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on: 0300 456 0108

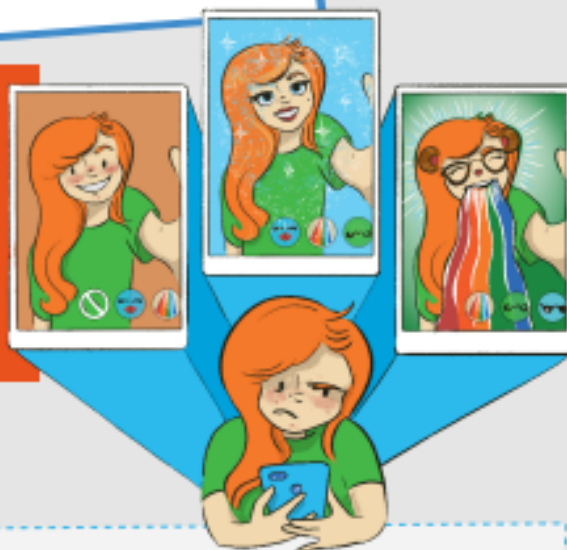
If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999.

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Online Safety and Social Media

Social media is an online platform that allows users to connect with others online. Depending on what platform you use, social media can allow you to communicate and share information with others with the intention to update or engage a specific audience. This can often include sharing videos, images, status updates or posts with a group of followers that can sometimes cover a global scale.



A lot of the time, social media is a positive place where users support each other. Despite this, it can also house toxic and harmful behaviours, which can be directed towards specific individuals or groups with the intention to harass, or cause upset.

Benefits of Social Media

- 1 Available and accommodating to most audiences
- 2 Can promote positivity and healthy expression
- 3 An accessible platform to connect with others
- 4 An instant platform for news and global awareness

Considerations for Social Media

- 1 Harmful and offensive content may be seen across platforms
- 2 Can be used to promote misleading information
- 3 Can promote unhealthy expectations and pressure for young people
- 4 Can impact digital wellbeing if not managed correctly

Harm on Social Media

Many social media platforms have adapted to include reporting features in order to tackle certain types of online harm. Some of these harms to watch out for include:

- 1 Fake online profiles
- 2 Misinformation or fake ads
- 3 Scamming or fraud attempts
- 4 Radical online content

Socialising Online

Social media provides a lot of freedom in how to connect with other users as well as how information and content is made available. This has provided certain platforms with worldwide appeal, giving anyone an opportunity to connect and engage with others. To promote keeping safe on social media, ensure that young people know how to:

- 1 Report harmful content online
- 2 Block and report users who are being offensive or harmful
- 3 Manage privacy settings to limit exposure to known friends and family members
- 4 Speak to a trusted adult if they are concerned about something online

To find out more about Social Media visit the SWGfL hub:
swgfl.org.uk/topics/social-media/

or scan the QR code



Further Support

Professionals Online Safety Helpline: saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service: swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/

Report Harmful Content:
reportharmfulcontent.com



NOMINET

