



23rd March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am sure you are aware of the sexual exploitation of children across the UK, which has been broadcast in the news, especially in light of the issues in Rotherham, Rochdale, Swindon and Bristol continues to be a concern.

Dangers can come from any area of a young person's life, the internet and social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat but also through friendship groups and people known to the young people themselves.

We also know that the best protection we can give to young people is knowledge of the dangers so that they are aware and can protect themselves, as well as letting them know where they can go for help and support if they are worried.

In order to do this we are presenting a virtual play to all of our Year 8 students that will tackle the difficult issue of Child Sexual Exploitation in up-coming Learning for Life lessons. The play is called Chelsea's Story and will provide an opportunity for helping students to see the choices Chelsea made and how she might have chosen differently. We will also provide an accompanying information sheet that has been designed with input from young people to all students on where to go if they are worried about exploitation, feel forced into doing something they do not want to do, or if they feel they are at risk. School staff will also be on hand to help with questions.

This activity in secondary schools is part of a proactive programme of work around raising and tackling the complex nature of Child Sexual Exploitation and is being supported by the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Executive and all Partner Agencies in the county. The play has been shown to all Year 8 students at Maidenhill for the last seven years and has been presented to over 63,000 Year 8 students across the county, and has been considered extremely successful.

We hope that this will be a powerful and memorable way to enhance the Learning for Life curriculum and help our young people to stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Hara
Assistant Head Teacher