



Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School

Loved by God; United in Learning

Headteacher: Scott Tait Deputy Headteacher: Lizzie Sharpe

Wednesday 28th June 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

Year 5 & Year 6 Safeguarding Workshop



Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We are fully committed to ensuring that consistent effective safeguarding procedures are in place to support families, children and staff at school and beyond our school gates.

We regularly present workshops to our children regarding different safeguarding measures and we are writing to you to inform you of a special workshop that will be taking place on **Monday 3rd July 2023** for our Year 5 and 6 children. The following information outlines the content of the workshop and there is an opportunity to withdraw your child from this event if you do not want your child to take part.

In the South West of the UK, including all areas of Dorset, there is a significant rise in county lines drug crime, whereby a large amount of young people as young as 10 years old, are being criminally and sexually exploited by gangs. These gangs proactively recruit young people to drug run in and around the South West, as well as outside the area. The gangs and criminal networks use extreme violence and intimidation towards these young people, which result in these young people feeling trapped and scared. They also train these young people to become recruiters and future gang members. Some of these gangs are forcing these vulnerable children from their homes to establish a base to sell drugs. The home office funded a county line pilot project which was carried out in 2018. It identified a clear need for more specialist services, in particular focusing on early intervention work for Year 6 children designed to help gain a greater awareness of grooming, recruitment, CSE, gangs, peer pressure, drugs and other dangers. These workshops in other parts of the country has proven to significantly reduce victims of county line gangs.

The charity, Escapeline, have followed the recommendations from the home office and is providing workshops for Year 5 and Year 6 children on how to keep themselves safe from exploitation. Escapeline will be in school on **Monday 3rd July** to work with our children. If you **do not wish your child to be involved** with this training, please sign the form below. If we do not hear from you, we will assume you are happy for your child to be part of the training. If you would like more information on the training, then please contact the school for further information.

The charity have also offered an evening webinar for parents on Wednesday 12th July from 6-7pm. Details of this will follow shortly.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Smith

Assistant Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead

ESCAPE LINE SESSION – Monday 3rd July FAO: Year 5 & Year 6 class teachers

Name of child:

Class:

I do not wish for my child to take part in the Escapeline workshop on Monday 3rd July 2023

Signed:

Date:

Name (capitals) and relationship to child:



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