

22nd October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

This half-term we have had a focus on personal safety, online grooming, and county lines with our pupils in PSHE and Student Voice.

County lines refers to the new drug dealing model that urban criminal gangs are using to sell drugs to rural and coastal areas. It is common for these gangs to target and recruit vulnerable school children (some as young as 10) to transport and sell drugs for them. Police forces across the country have reported that county lines activity is evident in most forces across England and Wales. This makes it an important issue for us to educate children and young people about, so they can help keep themselves and others safe from harm.

Our young people have explored what county lines are, how young people get involved and the signs that may show someone is being groomed or exploited for criminal activity. Our pupils have been signposted to places where they can go for help should they need more information or someone to talk to.

If you would like further information on county lines, please consider looking at the guidance below: •

The Children's Society has lots of helpful guidance for parents and carers worried about county lines: [What Is County Lines? | The Children's Society \(childrenssociety.org.uk\)](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-issues-and-challenges-are-we-facing/county-lines)

The NSPCC has advice for parents and carers worried about gangs, as well as how to spot grooming and exploitation: [What Parents Need to Know About Sexual Grooming | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/sexual-exploitation/)

If you are worried about a child, you can call the NSPCC's professional counsellors 24/7 for help, advice or support on: 0808 800 5000.

Please help your child to stay safe over the half term.

Kind regards,

Ms Woodstock
Pastoral Lead