



Welcome to spring newsletter from the Safeguarding Team.

We aim to bring parents and students the latest, relevant help, advice and reference material on issues that we feel will be of importance to you.

The issue of County Lines has been highlighted recently in Surrey and is an increasing concern for the Police. This article aims to help parents and guardians understand the issues involved.



**County Lines** describes the mobile phone lines used by criminal gangs to organise illegal drugs to be moved and sold from one village, town or city to another across the UK. Children are most often used to move and sell the drugs. They are recruited by gang members who pose as friends and then trap the young people into a terrifying cycle of violence, exploitation and abuse. Children caught up in County Lines are not criminals – they are victims of exploitation at the hands of organised criminal gangs.

The criminals who run County Lines operations turn over huge amounts of drugs and money. The organised criminal gang leaders know the law inside out and they adapt their operations in response to police activity, moving from location to location to avoid detection. Using children to sell drugs acts like a smoke screen – children travelling on public transport can easily go under the radar.

## Speaking to a member of staff at All Hallows - How to report a concern

If you are a student and you or anyone you know has been harmed or is at risk of being harmed in any way, then please speak to a member of staff at All Hallows. We will be able to offer you help and support. You can speak to any teacher but you may decide to speak to your form tutor or Head of Year. You may prefer to speak to one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL), teachers who are responsible for Safeguarding. They are:

OneDrive

**Mrs Fanshawe, Mr Rees, Mr Antrobus, Mrs Gill, Mr Carney and Mrs Peters.**

Link for Students to report a Concern or Worry

You are able to email any Safeguarding concerns to [dsl@allhallows.net](mailto:dsl@allhallows.net) using your school email account. We also have an area on SharePoint which is available for you to report any concern you may have. This link will take you to a form to complete and submit.

My Classes

**All students were reminded of this facility in a recent assembly by Mrs Fanshawe**

Email





**Who is at risk from County Lines?**

Without support to keep themselves safe, any child, from any type of social background, can be at risk of County Lines grooming. While gangs often target vulnerable children, this is not the full picture. Children from all classes and all backgrounds are at risk.

**How are children recruited?**

Gang members groom children as young as 11, from all socio-economic backgrounds, and in particular teenage boys – although a growing number of girls and young women are being caught up in County Lines, too.

A gang member will befriend the young person, buying them gifts like designer trainers, expensive clothing and food. They will spend a lot of time with them, making them feel special and give them a high status within the group. The gang member will take as much time as needed to build trust. The victim will be entrusted with something of value, for example a watch, belonging to the gang member. They will then be mugged, losing the watch. The gang member will get angry, possibly violent, when they find out their watch has been "stolen". They will then tell the victim they need to pay back the value of the watch, and give them packages to deliver. These packages will usually contain drugs and the child will become trapped in a cycle of forced criminal exploitation. This often begins by being told to deliver packages, and often extends into selling the drugs contained in the packages, travelling across the UK on public transport at all times of day and night.

**How do you know if County Lines drug dealing is happening in your area?** (advice from the National Crimes Agency)

- Some signs to look out for include:
- An increase in visitors and cars to a house or flat
- New and regularly changing residents
- 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



**24/7 mental health crisis line for children, young people, and families**

A new 24/7 mental health crisis line for children, young people and their families and carers in Surrey has launched.

The freephone number **0800 9154644** is available for children and young people up to the age of 18, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

The new crisis line provides emotional wellbeing support, advice, and signposting to a range of community services for children, young people and their families and carers who are in a mental health crisis. No referral is needed. Click the link below for help.

[Get help in a mental health crisis :: Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust \(sabp.nhs.uk\)](http://sabp.nhs.uk)

**Counselling at All Hallows**



Counselling is a space to identify and work through difficult feelings or issues in your life which may be causing distress with the help and support of a trained therapist. Counselling is about helping you to find your own answers to problems, an opportunity for you to look at your problems in a different way in a non-judgemental and safe environment.

**To access this opportunity please contact your HOY or Mrs Fanshawe for more details.**

**PSHE at All Hallows**  
Friday 14th Jan Period 3

- Year 7 - Careers and personal finance
- Year 8 - Careers and personal finance
- Year 9 - Careers and Options
- Year 10 - Relationships
- Year 11 - Reflecting on mock exams and planning for the future
- Year 12 - Healthy Living
- Year 13 - Mock exam



**All Hallows Catholic School**

**Safeguarding Team:** [dsl@allhallows.net](mailto:dsl@allhallows.net)  
Telephone: 01252 319211  
Email: [admin@allhallows.net](mailto:admin@allhallows.net)  
Website: [www.allhallows.net](http://www.allhallows.net)





## What can you do if you think somebody is involved in County Lines?

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 would rather remain anonymous, you can contact the independent charity [Crimestoppers](#) on 0800 555 111. If you notice something linked to the railways, you can report concerns to the British Transport Police by texting 61016 from your mobile. In an emergency dial 999.

You can also call Childline on 0800 1111. Childline is private and confidential service where you can talk to specially trained counsellors about anything that is worrying you.

Alternatively, speak to a children and young people's service like [Catch 22](#). They work with children and young people of any age to help get them out of situations they're worried about, and have helped lots of children and young people involved in County Lines.



**CrimeStopper**  
**0800 555 111**  
100% anonymous. Always.

## Do you know the ages when children can start to use Social Media apps like Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat and WhatsApp?

The answer is **13 years old** apart from **WhatsApp which is 16!** See further details by clicking below:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-start-social->

## Keeping our school records up-to-date

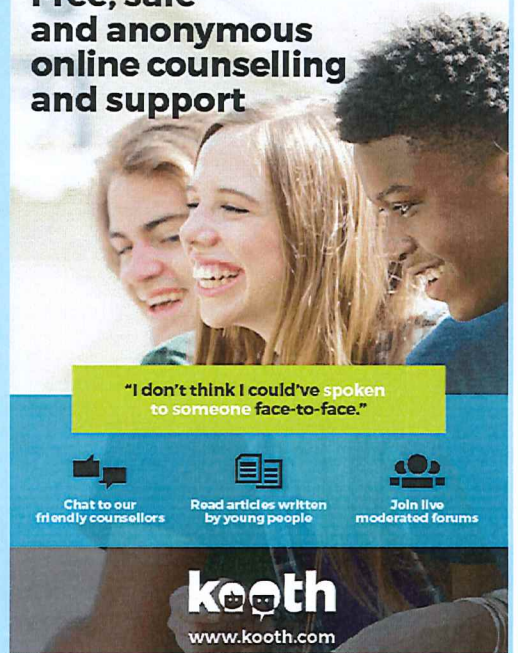
Are all your contact details up to date? If you change your home phone/email/mobile number, please let the school Front Office know, so that we have the most up-to-date contact details. We must store at least two emergency contact numbers for you.

## KOOTH

As part of Mental Health services for young people. It is a free online counselling and emotional wellbeing support service providing young people aged 11-25 years (up to 25th birthday), with a free, safe and secure means of accessing support with their emotional health and wellbeing from a professional team of qualified counsellors.

[Click here to go to Kooth.com](#)  
[to sign up](#)

**Free, safe and anonymous online counselling and support**



"I don't think I could've spoken to someone face-to-face."

Chat to our friendly counsellors | Read articles written by young people | Join live moderated forums

**kooth**  
www.kooth.com



**All Hallows Catholic School**

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