



September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Chelsea's Story

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

Dangers can come from the any area of their lives, the internet and social networking sites such 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 an interactive play to all of our Year 8 pupils which will tackle the difficult issue of Child Sexual Exploitation on *Monday 25th September*. The play is called 'Chelsea's Story' and will provide an opportunity for interaction with the actors helping pupils to see the choices Chelsea has made and how she might have chosen differently. We will provide an information sheet which has been designed with input from young people to all pupils on where to go if they are worried about exploitation, feel forced into doing something they don't want to, 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 being supported by Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership and all Partner Agencies in the county. The play has over the last eleven years been presented to over 99,000 Year 8 pupils across the county and was extremely successful.

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

Kind regards,

Mrs A O'Riordan
Assistant Head Teacher - Pastoral