

Safeguarding newsletter



WHAT IS CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION?

Criminal exploitation is where children and young people are manipulated and coerced into committing crimes. They might be victims of violence or pressured into doing things like stealing or carrying drugs or weapons. They might be abused, exploited and put into dangerous situations, or find themselves as part of a gang, where through peer pressure illegal activity may take place. Some of the dangers of criminal exploitation are: being subject to threats, blackmail and violence; having their safety or the safety of family and friends threatened; risk of emotional harm or long-term impact on education or employment prospects. For more information visit the [NSPCC](#) website.



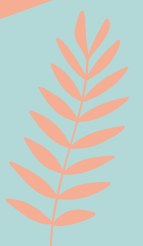
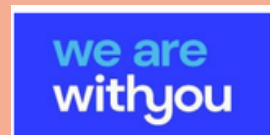
COUNTY LINES

County Lines is the police term for gangs exploiting young people into moving drugs from a hub, normally a large city, into other markets - suburban areas and market and coastal towns - using dedicated mobile phone lines or "deal lines". Children as young as 12 years old have been exploited into carrying drugs for gangs. This type of exploitation can involve children being trafficked away from their home area, staying in accommodation and selling and manufacturing drugs. In some cases, the dealers will take over a local property, normally belonging to a vulnerable person, and use it to operate their criminal activity from. This is known as cuckooing. More information can be found on the Cambridge Police website. Click the image below:



SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Parents who have a substance use problem can have chaotic, unpredictable lifestyles and may struggle to meet their children's needs. This may result in their children being at risk of harm. Parents who have a substance use problem may have difficulty: staying organised and giving their children effective and consistent support, keeping their home and family clean or recognising and responding appropriately to their own and their children's physical needs. Parents who drink excessively or have a drug use problem can also become emotionally unavailable to their children. Another effect may be that a child may have to take on the role of carer for their family. This could include doing the housework and looking after younger siblings. The following websites (click on the images) offer further information and signposting to support



BRITISH VALUES SPOTLIGHT ON: DEMOCRACY

In a democracy, people have a say in the decisions that affect them. They usually vote, where everyone gets a chance to choose their favourite option. It's not just about voting though! Democracy is also about listening to different ideas, respecting others' opinions, and working together to find solutions that benefit everyone. Even in our classrooms, we practice these important skills by listening to each other's ideas and working together to make our class a fun and fair place for everyone!



Healthy Snack Reminder

Busy brains and growing bodies need the right fuel to power through a packed school day! Just like a superhero's energy source, what we eat matters. That's why we wanted to send a friendly reminder about choosing healthy snacks for our remarkable pupils at Pendragon Primary.

A healthy snack should be:

Packed with power: Choose foods rich in protein, fibre, and good fats – like cheese slices with whole-wheat crackers, hummus and vegetable sticks, or yoghurt with berries.

Rainbow bright: Fill your child's snack box with colourful fruits and vegetables – think crunchy carrot sticks, juicy grapes (need to be sliced), chopped peppers or cherry tomatoes!

Let's work together to fuel our pupils with the nutritious snacks they need to shine bright!

Attendance

Statistics show pupils with good attendance achieve well in school and children with attendance over 96% make better progress socially and academically. Children who are persistently absent do not make the same level of progress and usually struggle socially. Persistent absentees are those children who have missed more than 10% of their school sessions. In a year there are 190 teaching days. If a child misses 19 days or more they will be classed as persistently absent. Children who are persistently absent, for whatever reason, are much more likely to fail in school. The parents of these children may be referred to the Local Authority Education Welfare Team. You can check your child's attendance by logging into the MCAS Parent/Carer portal.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

If you think a child is at immediate risk of harm, call 999 or make a referral [here](#).