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Richard Brand: Headteacher

9th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Chelsea's Story

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

Dangers can come from any area of a child's life; the internet, social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat, through friendship groups and also people known to the young people themselves.

We know that the best protection we can give to our young people is the knowledge of any potential 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 9 pupils on Wednesday 17th November 2021 which will tackle the difficult issue of Child Sexual Exploitation. The play is called Chelsea's Story and it 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 is supported by the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Executive and all Partner Agencies in the county. Over the last nine years the play has been presented to over 81,000 Year 9 pupils across the county and has been extremely successful.

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

Yours sincerely

Mr Mooney
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Bellingham
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

