

ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



Act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with your God

22 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you about the important and sensitive subject of child exploitation. You may have seen information about this over the last few years through national and local press. It has also been featured recently in some documentaries and television programme storylines. People can force or manipulate a child or young person into committing crimes or performing sexual acts in exchange for something. This 'exchange' could be for money, gifts, alcohol or drugs, or it could be for 'status' within a group or gang. Exploitation does not have to be done through direct contact. It can also occur online through computers and mobile phones. The impact on young people can be immense.

As the school is currently closed to most students, you might be more concerned about your children so I would like to share with you a document about child exploitation. Signs of concerns are listed; this could help you notice any significant changes in your children.

The important contacts list gives you access to a range of professionals and experts. You can raise your awareness or reach out for individual guidance and support. PACE resources are directly aimed at parents, please do not hesitate to consult their website on <https://paceuk.info/for-parents/>

Child sexual exploitation and child crime exploitation are hidden crimes and children and young people will seldom be aware that they are being exploited, even if they are 16 or 17 years of age. I say this because young people often trust their abuser and don't understand that they are being abused. They may depend on their abuser and they are often too scared to tell anyone what is happening.

Remember, if you are concerned that your child is at risk of being criminally or sexually exploited then you can telephone your local Council's Children Safeguarding Partnership. For Enfield contact Children's MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) on **020 8379 5555** (Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm; Fri 9am-4.45pm) or you can email ChildrensMASH@enfield.gov.uk

You can of course contact the Police if you have concerns by ringing 101 or in an emergency always ring 999. You can also discuss your concerns with a member of staff at school if you would prefer.

Yours sincerely

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