



Kingsmead School



A PARTNER ACADEMY IN JOHN TAYLOR MAT
Headteacher: Mrs M Mincher, Bsc, NPQH

RESILIENT  INNOVATIVE  MINDFUL  EMPLOYABLE 

9th September 2022

Dear Parents/Persons with Parental Responsibility,

Much of our role as parents and teachers is keeping children safe. In recent weeks we have become aware of a serious issue in our local area with gang-related behaviour outside of the school environment. We wanted to update you with what we know so that you can make responsible decisions about what your child does during evenings, holidays and weekends.

You may have heard of County Lines. This is where young adults recruit older school children and through them, younger school children into a 'gang.' We have been told that as part of this, school children are being put at increasing risk as they 'earn' the right to join a group by targeting others and behaving poorly in the community. This is becoming an increasing problem across the region, including in Staffordshire.

You can find more information about county lines here - [County Lines - National Crime Agency](#)

The young adults and older children, who are often not in full-time education, travel between large cities such as Birmingham and Nottingham, targeting children in the smaller towns or rural areas.

As parents we ask that you are vigilant and work with us to avoid this from ever reaching our children here in Kingsmead. Ways you can help are:

- Know where your children are at all times
- Know who they are with and check this
- Never let your child go to a 'sleep over' with people that you have not met
- Have an openness about mobile phone use, be curious about who your child is talking to
- Look for changes in behaviour, language or attitude where your child appears to be isolating themselves
- Watch out for your child becoming cold and emotionless when people or animals are hurt
- Listen out for your child mentioning names or nicknames you haven't previously heard
- Watch out for your child having money or items that you have not given to them especially having a balaclava
- Look out for your child having older friends who 'normally' wouldn't hang out with someone of their age

We thought that it might also help you to understand what we know about the places where gangs are increasing in presence:

- A large local park with open spaces, which are not monitored or policed
- Near to railway stations
- Outside large supermarkets, in car parks and within the shops
- Outside vaping shops and within town centres



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As a school we continue to keep a close eye on our community. I want to reassure you that these issues are not affecting life in school in any way. Kingsmead School remains a safe, happy environment and staff are well trained to prevent these issues from becoming part of school life. If you have queries or wish to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to contact us or if you want to report any concerns that you might have to the police, please ring 0800 555 111.

We need your help to keep the children and our community safe.

Best Wishes

Maria Mincher
Headteacher