

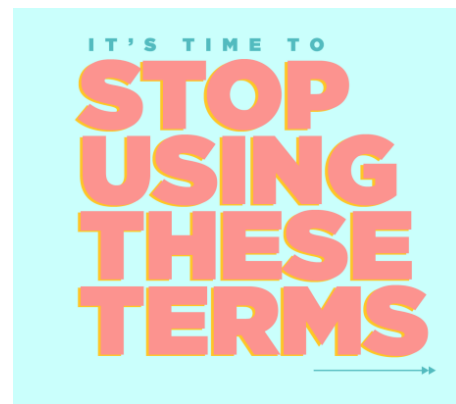


Welcome to our second Safeguarding Bulletin. In this edition we are following up on the information given in half terms bulletin on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment (SVSH) with a look at **LANGUAGE**, some information about the term **COUNTY LINES** and an **ATTENDANCE** update.

**Use of Language:** This goes beyond SVSH and moves into racism, homophobia and a range of other protected characteristics.

All staff have had some preliminary training and awareness raising on the use of language and how we all use it when referring to each other. Students will find themselves challenged when using inappropriate terminology and staff will be explaining to them why it is inappropriate; this will involve gendered language, sexist and sexual terms, racist terms and homophobic and transgender terms as well as any other offensive terms. We are an inclusive community and as our mission statement (above) says we want **ALL** of our students to flourish in life.

Some students and parents have countered this with “It’s just a joke” or referred to such terminology as “banter”; we challenge this and say that what we permit we promote. Whilst the person saying the words may not find them offensive, others do and we must be mindful of ALL in our community.



## County Lines



“County Lines is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs. The ‘County Line’ is the mobile phone line used to take the orders of drugs.”

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines>

Children are targeted to be used in County Lines and there are key signs to watch out for in relation to your own child:

- Substance misuse and/or drug paraphernalia
- Changes in the way young people you might know dress
- Unexplained, sometimes unaffordable new things (e.g. clothes, jewellery, cars etc)
- Young people you know going missing, maybe for long periods of time
- Young people seen in different cars/taxis driven by unknown adults
- Truancy, exclusion, disengagement from school
- Unexplained injuries

Information video 6 mins long: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lLaguFXHr4>



## County Lines Drugs & Exploitation Spot the Signs

County Lines is the police term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and market and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phones or 'deal lines'. It involves child criminal exploitation as gangs use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money. Gangs establish a base in the market location, typically by taking over the homes of local vulnerable adults by force or coercion in a practice referred to as 'cuckooing'.

A young person's involvement in county lines activity often leaves signs. A young person might exhibit some of these signs, either as a member or as an associate of a gang dealing drugs. Any sudden changes in a young person's lifestyle should be discussed with them. Some indicators of county lines involvement and exploitation are listed below, with those at the top of particular concern:

- Persistently going missing from school or home and / or being found out-of-area;
- Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes, or mobile phones
- Excessive receipt of texts / phone calls
- Relationships with controlling / older individuals or groups
- Leaving home / care without explanation
- Suspicion of physical assault / unexplained injuries
- Parental concerns
- Carrying weapons
- Significant decline in school results / performance
- Gang association or isolation from peers or social networks
- Self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being



County Lines is a major, cross-cutting issue involving drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons; and the response to tackle it involves the police, National Crime Agency, a wide range of Government departments, local government agencies and voluntary and community sector organisations.

### Attendance Matters

One of the key ways that we as a school assist you as parents in safeguarding your children is through our focus on attendance. We do this in a number of ways:

- Our pastoral team monitors attendance and looks for any significant changes or patterns in a child's attendance. Where they notices these, they act quickly by contacting yourselves to check on any emerging issues. We believe that constant communication between home and school is vital.
- Where there are attendance concerns, the child is involved in the conversations as well as their parents; this is important, they have to fully understand the benefits of being in school.
- We have a "missing student" alert and if your child is not in a lesson then we take swift action to ascertain their whereabouts to ensure their safety.



We know that in Covid times, caution has been vital in controlling the virus. We now have to move forwards and balance keeping us Covid-safe with encouraging students into school for the maximum

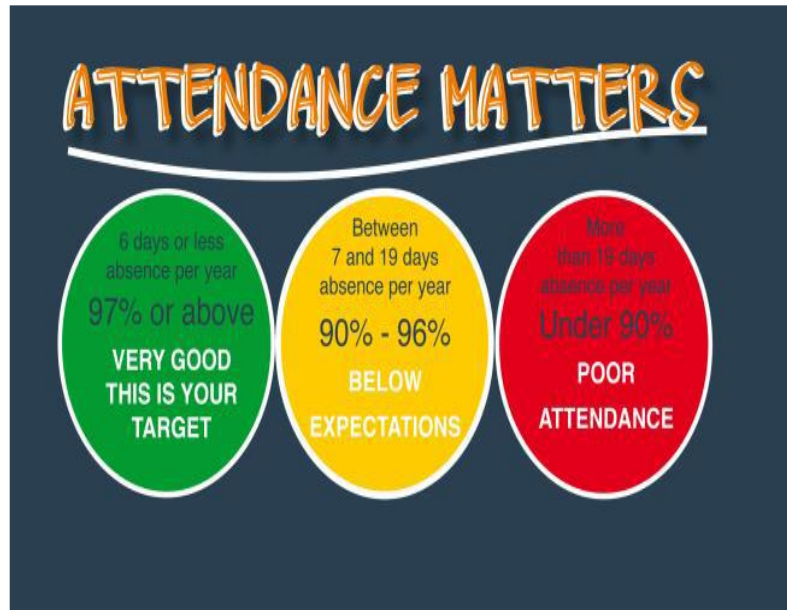
**If you or your child have a non-emergency concern, please contact [safeguarding@saintspeterandpaul.halton.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@saintspeterandpaul.halton.sch.uk) for advice and support. For emergencies please call 999.**



time. Education and the daily consistency and routine are vital. The unpredictability of the last year as affected students in a multitude of ways; the daily routine of school helps combat some of those concerns.

How you can help us safeguard your child and their education through attendance:

- Students should attend every day unless they are too unwell to attend or have a positive LFD test (in which case they should attend for a PCR).
- If a child is absent then please call 01514242139 and leave a message using the attendance option or report via the app
- Appointments should be made for after school times. If this is not possible, students should attend for morning registration, sign out for their appointments and then return to school after them.
- Holidays should NOT be taken in term time



## The Safeguarding Team



**Mr Forber**  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

**Mrs Forber**  
Designated Safeguarding Lead

**Mrs Nightingale**  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



**Mrs Woan**

**Mrs Cunningham**

**Mrs Scott**

**Mrs Downing**

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