



Safeguarding Newsletter

Friday 16th January 26

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

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 website offers further information and signposting to support.

[Parental substance misuse | NSPCC Learning](#)

What is Physical Abuse?

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025 categorises four main types of abuse: these are physical, emotional, sexual and neglect. Physical abuse is when someone hurts or harms a child or young person on purpose. It can include hitting, shaking, throwing.

Physical harm may also be caused when a parent fabricates or induces symptoms of illness in a child. Chastisement can also be classed as physical abuse when excessive force is used. Physical abuse can have long term effects on physical and mental health.

For more information see:

[Types of Child Abuse & How to Prevent Them | NSPCC](#)

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 9 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**.



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