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Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of the Autumn term we are writing to update on some of our contextual safeguarding issues within both school and the local area.

### Children and violence #ChangeTheStory

The Youth Endowment Fund has published its annual report, "**Children, Violence and Vulnerability**". After surveying over 7,500 teenagers in England and Wales about their experiences of violence, key findings include:

- 16% of children said they've been victims of violence in the past 12 months;
- 47% reported that violence and the fear of violence impacted their day-to-day lives;
- 20% said they'd skipped school due to feeling unsafe;
- 60% of children saw real-world acts of violence on social media.

As a safeguarding team we have recently attended a training based on 'Teenage Relationship Abuse', This training focussed upon the power struggles which are real within all teenage relationships alongside intimate relationships. This focussed upon social media usage as well as face to face interactions within pupils aged 13 – 17. A study for the White Ribbon Day by Safe Lives found that:

- 75% of young people admitted they had suffered emotional abuse.
- 25% of these had also suffered serious physical abuse.
- 95% of young people experiencing domestic abuse within intimate peer relationships were female.
- 49% of boys and 33% of girls aged 13 – 14 thought that hitting a partner during a fight would be ok.
- Young people experiencing peer violence are twice as likely to self-harm.

The team are working with all our teams in school to complete this as a contextual issue within school to ensure that we are educating our pupils on this issue, allowing for them to see the signs of any kind of teenage relationship abuse or coercive control, and ensuring our staff are recognising the signs. This will form part of our Spring Term training package for all staff.

Here is a video which we will be using with our older pupils about the understanding of coercive control you might be interested in: <https://cypsp.hscni.net/coercive-control-where-is-the-line-25may21/>

## CPVA – Child to Parent Violence and Abuse

Child to Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA) is recognised nationally as an issue which relates to safeguarding both adults and children. Across the Northumbria region CPVA is defined as “Any harmful act or behaviour by a child aged 10-18yrs, whether physical, psychological, emotional or financial towards a parent/guardian or carer”.

CPVA may present as a single violent incident. However, it is more likely to be a pattern of behaviour including physical abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, and sexual abuse with the aim of controlling, dominating, threatening, or coercing their parent/care giver. These behaviours can lead to family members feeling worried, upset, isolated, humiliated, and fearful for their safety.

Children & adolescent violence and abuse can occur in any family and is not associated with economic class, ethnic background, or sexual orientation.

If you have any concerns about what is happening in your family, you can contact the Early Help Team within Children’s Services via your local authority. Alternatively, the following National Services can provide you with support and advice.

GALOP

Helpline: 0800 999 5428

[help@galop.org.uk](mailto:help@galop.org.uk)

Relate

Tel: 0300 100 1234

[www.parentingtroubledteenagers.relate.org](http://www.parentingtroubledteenagers.relate.org)

### Self-Harm

Self-harm can appear in many forms, is far more widespread and complex than most people think and is now becoming more common in young people. It is also mostly hidden, often judged due to the stigma attached to it and is often misunderstood. Self-harm involves a person intentionally emotionally or physically hurting themselves.

People can self-harm for very different reasons, for example, living with conditions like ADHD or autism, stressful or upsetting experiences, intrusive thoughts, health problems, being bullied, peer pressure, school and home life.

Staff at school are always here for our pupils and can assist with signposting to organisations who can help, such as Childline, 0800 11 11, Young minds, (0207) 336 8445, Streetwise, (0191) 230 5400 and

[www.battle-scars-self-harm.org.uk](http://www.battle-scars-self-harm.org.uk).

We will continue to update you throughout the year on all of our safeguarding updates through the blog and through our termly letters.

As always please get in touch with us directly or through the website link, about any of these issues or any other safeguarding issue you might like us to cover.

Have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year,

### **The Safeguarding Team**

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