

Tuesday, May 02, 2017

Dear parents and carers

Very often storylines of soap operas portray uncomfortable storylines which make it difficult to watch them. The public service that is carried out by the writers, production teams and actors is tremendous and is not undertaken lightly. A lot of research, including speaking with victims of horrendous experiences, goes into the stories at all levels.

Currently, Coronation Street is running a hard-hitting storyline which covers Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Educating our students about CSE is a key focus at The King's. It is a key area of concern in the local area - across Stoke and Newcastle - and, as such, much work is directed towards prevention of this incredibly scary activity. It is important to note that, whilst the storyline in Coronation Street centres around a teenage girl, it does affect boys as well. The story itself is primarily centred around the experiences of some of the young girls at the centre of the recently-exposed CSE scandal on Rotherham. The storyline has been supported by several of these victims.

We work closely with local safeguarding teams, preventative agencies, Base 58, Ruff 'n' Ruby, the police, our school nurse and her colleagues, the sexual health teams, child mental health services, the NSPCC and other local agencies in order to empower our students to understand the notion of exploitation. The scary thing is that stories like this do happen, and they happen in our community - knowledge, as they say, is power. If we increase our knowledge about this horrendous crime, then we increase the power that we have to prevent more young people falling victim to it.

In the event that you are concerned about your child, or someone else's child, it is important that you speak to someone about your concerns. You can speak to a member of the school's safeguarding team by calling the school office, or by emailing: safeguarding@thekings.staffs.sch.uk or you can contact the NSPCC anonymously on 0800 1111. If you believe that a child is in immediate risk of harm, please be certain to call the police on 999.

Safeguarding the children in our care has always been the highest priority at The King's. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or another member of staff, should you wish to discuss this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Miss S Milne
Assistant Headteacher