

14<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**Re: County Lines**

Dear Parent,

Following recent national publications relating to 'County Lines', I felt it was important to update you with the current information and guidance.

**What is 'County Lines'?**

A type of criminal exploitation in which gangs and organised crime networks exploit children to sell drugs. Often these children are made to travel across counties, and they use dedicated mobile phone 'lines' to supply drugs. Click here for Home Office guidance on [County Lines](#).

**In respect to my child, what are the possible signs?**

- Returning home late, staying out all night or going missing.
- Being found in areas away from home.
- Increasing drug use or being found to have large amounts of drugs on them.
- Being secretive about who they are talking to and where they are going.
- Unexplained absences from school.
- Unexplained money, phone(s), clothes or jewellery.
- Increasingly disruptive or aggressive behaviour, extreme changes of demeanour and attitude.
- Using sexual, drug-related or violent language you wouldn't expect them to know.
- Coming home with injuries or looking particularly dishevelled.

Click here for further information: [www.seethesigns.org.uk](http://www.seethesigns.org.uk)

**What do I do if I have concerns?**

If you have a safeguarding concern, please use one or more of the contacts below:

E-mail the DSL in the first instance - [childprotection@eastwood.southend.sch.uk](mailto:childprotection@eastwood.southend.sch.uk)

E-mail the Local Authority - [seethesigns@southend.gov.uk](mailto:seethesigns@southend.gov.uk)

Make a referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub - [FCT@southend.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:FCT@southend.gcsx.gov.uk)

Should you have any queries, questions, concerns or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. N. Houchen  
Principal