

Important Safeguarding Notice for Parents

Dear Parent/ Carer

As a school we have been made aware of two separate pieces of information in regard to online safety. This information comes from the South Wales Police area but is being shared with all schools in Dyfed Powys area as a precaution.

I would like to stress to parents that while there have been no direct incidents affecting pupils in our community we do feel that it is important that parents are made aware of these issues. By doing so parents and carers can be vigilant for any references to these websites and are provided with information on what to do and where to seek support.

One is in regard to a **Facebook group** called **Small Butterfly**. South Wales Police have identified a number of live chats where children aged 12 -17 years have contacted Victim Support to have their final conversations before they commit suicide. These girls were invited to the Facebook/Messenger private group called Small Butterfly and were 'supported' by the group for a short period of time before being given their date for their 'big day' - 'big day' means the day they need to take their own life.

Another is in regard to a TikTok rumour regarding a national rape day. TikTok users have been warning each other that a group of men had been discussing the 24th of April as a national day of carrying out rape and sexual assault. An in-depth look at these rumours and found no contemporary evidence to support them. What was found, however, was a significant number of videos, warnings and commentary being posted in response to the rumours.

Can we stress the need for all parents and carers to be aware of any reference being made to these sites by children. By providing parents with this information we hope that they will be forewarned and forearmed. We do not wish to cause any sense of panic or anxiety and would urge parents to not do anything that would encourage pupils to seek out these sites themselves.

How to keep your children safe - Advice from Safer Schools

- Hwb is open for access to all parents/carers and there is advice on all aspects of safeguarding your child on line. Information can be found at: <https://hwb.gov.wales/zones/keeping-safe-online/parents-and-carers/>
- Try to avoid sharing any stories on social media related to this trend. This can create more panic and concern.
- If the children in your care mention this issue, you should use the opportunity to talk to them about the nature of online rumours and how they can block and report any content they find distressing.
- If children describe fear and anxiety, you should discuss a safety plan, which includes:
 - Sticking to busy well-lit areas
 - Staying in the company of a friend/s
 - Arranging a lift with parents or carers or a pre-planned taxi from a reputable firm.

- You could recommend that they share their location on their phone with their parent or carer so they can be tracked on their way home.
- Ask them if they know the safe places in the area they are going to. These places can include police stations, hospitals, and shops where they could easily ask an adult for help.
- **Reinforce the danger of using alcohol or other drugs and advise that that if they ever feel in danger they should call 999.**

Dave Williams

Headteacher

QEHS