



# SAFEGUARDING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



April 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

As a community of schools we seek to look after the health and well-being of all our young people within our local area.

We are fully aware of the many challenges we all face in safeguarding our young people and we hope that this information is helpful to you.

We would ask that you keep in regular contact with your child's school.

Thank you.

*On behalf of the West Belfast Area Learning Community*

## **PARKS AFTER SCHOOL**

The Belfast City Council Parks Department and the PSNI have asked schools to remind ALL students of the need to respect their local parks. The parks in our area are to be enjoyed by all. It is not a place for young people to congregate. It has been reported that young people are gathering in local parks after closing hours and causing damage to play equipment and flower beds. There have also been reports of underage drinking and drug-taking.

The PSNI and Belfast City Council park workers will be operating enforcement duties in these parks, especially after closing time and at weekends. The PSNI have informed schools that they will issue consequences for anti-social behaviour.

**For your child's own safety do not allow them to go into parks after closing, especially during the dark nights - it is against the law!**



# STRANGER DANGER

The local schools have been informed of suspicious approaches towards children. These have included reports of people calling to children from a car. Please be aware of the 'danger of strangers' and report any suspicious activity to the police immediately.

**Be extremely vigilant at all times!**

## HELPING YOUR CHILD STAY SAFE ON-LINE

- ✓ The most important thing is to have conversations with your children.
- ✓ Talk to them about the benefits and dangers of the internet so that you can empower them to use the internet safely.
- ✓ Cultivate an interest in their online activities - their favourite websites, online games and interests.
- ✓ Keep an eye on what they are doing online.
- ✓ Don't be afraid to ask your children who they are talking to online and what they are talking about.
- ✓ Remind them how important it is to tell a trusted adult if something happens online that makes them feel uncomfortable or worried because there are people who can help.
- ✓ Become a net-savvy parent - the best safeguard against online dangers is being informed. Jump in and learn the basics of the Internet - read articles, take a class, and talk to other parents. You don't have to be an expert to have a handle on your child's online world.



## KEEPING SAFE

- \* If you, or someone you know, is feeling unhappy, unsafe, or worried, always tell someone.
- \* We value and care for all our young people in our local school community.
- \* We want all our school children to be safe, happy and successful.

### Organisations you can contact



**CEOP**

**Child Exploitation &  
On-line Protection**