



## Years 5 and 6 Votes for Schools – County Lines

14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

Next week (wk beginning 21/01/19), we are going to be talking about the very serious issue of 'county lines' with our children. County lines refers to the new drug dealing model that urban criminal gangs are using to sell drugs to rural and coastal areas. It is common for these gangs to target and recruit vulnerable school children (some as young as 10) to transport and sell drugs for them. Police forces across the country have reported that county lines activity is evident in most forces across England and Wales. This makes it an important issue for us to educate children and young people about, so they can help keep themselves and others safe from harm.

These lesson materials have been created by VotesforSchools in partnership with Duncan Evans, the NPCC County Lines Lead for Child Exploitation. You will find more information on the topic below.

In this lesson, your child will explore what county lines are, how young people get involved and the signs that may show someone is being groomed or exploited for criminal activity. Your child will be signposted to places where they can go, should they need more information or someone to talk to. It is likely that after the lesson, your child may want to talk to you about county lines at home.

If you would like further information on county lines, please consider looking at the guidance below:

The Children's Society has lots of helpful guidance for parents and carers worried about county lines:

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/tackling-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/county-lines-resources>

The NSPCC has advice for parents and carers worried about gangs, as well as how to spot grooming and exploitation:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/staying-safe-away-from-home/gangs-young-people/>

If you are worried about a child, you can call the NSPCC's professional counsellors 24/7 for help, advice or support on: 0808 800 5000

We look forward to having these conversations next week with our children and value your support in this matter. If you have any concerns about the content, please speak to your child's class teacher before **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019**.

Yours sincerely

Bernice Warwick  
Interim Co-Head of School