



THE WEBBER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

Achieving Excellence Together

23 January 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians

ChildLine School Service

The NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme is visiting our school to make sure our students have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse.

I am pleased to tell you that we will be working with the NSPCC, the UK's leading children's charity, who will be delivering their ***Speak out. Stay safe.*** programme on **Tuesday 7 February**. This is a nationwide programme for every primary-school-aged child in the UK and Channel Islands. With the help of their friendly mascot Buddy, they will be presenting an assembly on Tuesday 7 February to Years 1-2 and a workshop on Thursday 9 February to Years 3-6.

**"NSPCC has helped me to build the confidence to tell people about my worries and problems."
Child's feedback**

What is the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme?

Through child-friendly, interactive assemblies and workshops their specially trained staff and volunteers will give our children information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries, sensitively discussing issues like bullying and sexual abuse, without using scary words or adult language.

We have studied the content of the materials and heard from other schools who have participated and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of their visit, we are convinced children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

"This service provides important information in a child-friendly way – it should be made mandatory in all schools. A brilliant service!" *Teacher, Wistaston Primary, Crewe*

If you would like any more information about the NSPCC ***Speak out. Stay safe.*** programme, including frequently asked questions, you can find it on the NSPCC website

www.nspcc.org.uk/schools or please come into speak to me and I can provide more information.



Talking about the Underwear Rule with your children

The NSPCC’s work in schools will help encourage conversations about staying safe – and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation afterwards. That includes ‘The Underwear Rule’, a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from sexual abuse – without using scary words or even mentioning sex.

The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can also find out more and download the free resources at www.nspcc.org.uk/pants

If you would like to know more about the NSPCC’s work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/

If **I do not** hear from you I will assume you are happy for your child(ren) to participate.

Kind regards

Ms Chessum

Director of Students/PSHCE Subject Leader

m.chessum@wis.gemsedu.co.uk

REPLY SLIP – ChildLine Schools Service (Please return to your class teacher)

I do **not** consent to my child(ren) participating in the ChildLine Schools Service Programme.

Name of Child:

Class : Date :

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature.....



Questions & Answers for Parents/Guardians

Why is the ChildLine Schools Service doing this work?

Research has shown that the majority of children who contact ChildLine for information, help and support are over 11 years old. As a result, the ChildLine Schools Service wants to reach out to younger children.

Who will deliver the programme to children?

ChildLine Schools Service staff and/or trained volunteers from the NSPCC. They will hold a CRB/DBS Enhanced Disclosure (England and Wales), Access NI (Northern Ireland) or a Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme Disclosure (Scotland). The school will know who the volunteers are before they come into school.

Will school staff be there during the programme?

School staff will be with the children throughout, so they are familiar with the key messages, can work with the children afterwards and continue to talk about these messages.

My child has special needs. How will you cater for them?

We want to ensure that all children in the year group are included in the programme. Before the programme we will talk to the school about pupils' individual needs and we will consider any advice provided by the school so that your child can be included.

What if my child is particularly sensitive to the subjects discussed in the programme?

We recognise that some children may be more sensitive to the subjects discussed than others. The ChildLine staff and volunteers will be able to respond sensitively and appropriately to any issues that may arise during the programme. If you think it is helpful, please speak to your child's teacher about the programme.

Is there any information to help me discuss keeping safe with my child?

The NSPCC has a wealth of resources for parents and carers to help keep their children safe from abuse. The Underwear Rule, for example, contains guidance on having simple conversations with children to keep them safe from sexual abuse. More information and downloadable guides (in a variety of languages) are available at www.nspcc.org.uk/underwear. There is also comprehensive guidance for parents and guardians about how to help keep their children safe online, including a tool which gives information about the top social networking sites. This can be found at www.nspcc.org.uk/shareaware.

Will the ChildLine Schools Service/NSPCC keep information about my child?

We will **not** routinely keep records about individual children. We will need to keep information such as names of the staff we spoke to and the number of pupils involved. Where, as a result of our involvement with a school, a child protection concern arises about a child, we will keep records relating to the child protection concern on an NSPCC database. If this happens, the school will, of course, let you know.

Can I see information that the ChildLine Schools Service/NSPCC holds about my child?

Under the Data Protection Act 1998, everyone has the right to see personal information that an organisation holds about them, subject to certain exemptions. You can request access to your child's personal information; this is subject to certain exemptions. If you want to request access to information held by the ChildLine Schools Service, please put your request in writing to **the ChildLine Schools Service, NSPCC Data Protection Manager, Legal Department, Weston House, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH.**

What should I do if I, or another adult, have concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child?

We would urge you to seek advice or take action without delay. You can do this by contacting your local social services department, police or alternatively you can contact the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000, by email at help@nspcc.org.uk or via our online reporting service at www.nspcc.org.uk. The NSPCC Helpline operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year and can offer you important advice, guidance and support or take action on your behalf. People contacting the NSPCC Helpline can remain anonymous.

What should I do if I want to make a complaint?

The NSPCC has a complaints procedure. The school has copies of our *How to make Yourself Heard* leaflet that explains what you should do if you want to make a complaint or comment. Please let the school know if you would like a copy of this.