

September 2017

Dear Parents / Carers

### **Could you spot the signs? Chelsea's Choice - theatre play**

A performance of Chelsea's Choice by the AlterEgo theatre group is being made available to your child as part of the 'Could you spot the signs?' and 'CEASE' (Commitment to Eradicate Abuse and Sexual Exploitation) campaigns. This will build on the awareness raising promoted through the roll out of *Kayleigh's Love Story*. Chelsea's Choice raises awareness of:

- sexual exploitation
- what makes a healthy relationship
- staying safe online

It is hoped that the play will give your child a better understanding of these issues and how to stay safe. The play has now been seen by hundreds of professionals and over 700,000 young people throughout the UK. It has toured throughout the country with over 220,000 young people having seen the performance.

Although child sexual exploitation is unusual, it is thought that there is under-reporting across the country and often children do not recognise that they are being groomed.

It is a form of sexual abuse. Victims are manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act, either as part of a seemingly consensual relationship, or in return for attention, gifts, money, alcohol, drugs or somewhere to stay. Sometimes the abuse is not physical contact but occurs through the use of technology.

Signs of this abuse range from changes in mood, physical appearance and eating, to appearing with unexplained gifts, money, secretive mobile phone use or other devices and missing from school or home.

The performance will be given to pupils of Years 8 and 9 on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September. If you have any concerns or would like to know more please contact myself or Mrs. Brierly or you may also want to talk to Children's Social Care:

- Leicester City Council 0116 454 1004
- Leicestershire County Council 0116 305 0005
- Rutland County Council 01572 758407
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Yours sincerely

Mr S Simpson  
Head of Years 8 and 9