

GROOMING – HOW TO SPOT THE SIGNS

Your child may have been spending more time online during lockdown and so there could be an increased risk of them becoming exposed to an array of online safeguarding risks, including grooming.

It can be difficult to tell if a child or young person is being groomed – the signs aren't always obvious and may be hidden. The police and the National Crime Agency have warned that children and young people are more vulnerable to predatory-style advances (e.g. on gaming sites, on social media and in video chat apps), with grooming and Child Sexual Exploitation of particular concern.

Some of the signs you might see include:

- being secretive about how they're spending their time
- having more than one mobile phone and is very secretive when using it
- having an older boyfriend or girlfriend
- having money or new gifts e.g. mobile phone/clothing that they can't or won't explain

- underage drinking or drug taking
- being upset, withdrawn or distressed
- sexualised behaviour, language or an understanding of sex that's not appropriate for their age
- spending more time away from home or going missing for periods of time.

Kirklees College uses a monitoring software called E safe which alerts us to safeguarding risks. Whilst we can't monitor those risks when a student is not using a college device, we can install the same software on devices used at home. If you are interested in knowing more about this or are concerned about a young person, please contact safeguarding@kirkleescollege.ac.uk for further advice and guidance.



KC PARENT PALS SESSIONS

We have now held 3 successful KC Parent Pals sessions where parents, carers and staff have come together to talk through issues they are facing during this unusual time as well as share advice. Keep an eye on your emails for information or email us at support@kirkleescollege.ac.uk.

ONLINE SAFETY – DO YOUNG PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE LAW?

The internet and social media has given people a voice where they wouldn't have been heard before, which means sometimes people say, or rather type, things that they know to be wrong. Young people often fall foul of this and it can lead to police action.

We frequently see the results of online abuse and threats and it is often clear that young people don't always understand the potential consequences and are sometimes surprised when they learn their actions could be illegal.

It can be an offence to incite hate, violence or abuse based on race, religion, gender or sexual orientation. Other offences include: messages calling for violence, content that glorifies violence or criminal behaviour driven by prejudice.

Report It have advice on how you can report online material. Childnet also offer advice for parents and carers on supporting young people online, including how to conduct themselves, accessing the right content and helping them have healthy contact. There are [downloadable PDFs](#) in a range of languages.

At Kirklees College, we want to encourage discussion and offer a safe place for students to talk about their feelings. Progress Coaches are continuing to run drop-in sessions and there are opportunities throughout the week through our Virtual Enrichment Programme. Please contact support@kirkleescollege.ac.uk for more information.