



MANOR COURT Community Primary School

incorporating Manor Court Early Years Centre

A Member of Preston Primary Academy Trust

Head Teacher Mr L Talmage Deputy Head Teacher Mr A Clode

Duck Lane, Chard, Somerset TA20 2ES

Telephone 01460 62350 • email sch.091@educ.somerset.gov.uk

manorcourtschool.sch.co.uk • twitter [@ManorCourtChard](https://twitter.com/ManorCourtChard)

12th June 2019

Re: County Lines Workshop

Dear Parents/Carers,

In the South West of the UK, including all areas of Somerset, there is a significant rise in county lines drug crime, whereby a large amount of young people, as young as 11 years old, are being criminally and sexually exploited by gangs.

These gangs proactively recruit young people to drug run in and around the South West, as well as outside the area. The gangs and criminal networks use extreme violence and intimidation towards these young people, which result in them feeling trapped and scared. They also train these young people to become recruiters and future gang members. Some of these gangs are forcing these vulnerable children from their homes to establish a base to sell drugs. As well as criminal exploitation, young people, in particular girls, are also being sexually exploited by these gangs.

The home office funded a county line pilot project which was carried out in 2018. It identified a clear need for more specialist services, in particular focusing on early intervention work for Year 6's designed to help children gain greater awareness of grooming, recruitment, CSE, gangs, peer pressure, drugs and other dangers. These workshops in other parts of the country have proven to significantly reduce victims of county line gangs. Escapeline have followed the recommendations from the home office and is providing workshops for year 6's on how to keep themselves safe from exploitation.

On Tuesday 18th 2019 June, Lisa Hooper from Escapeline will be visiting Manor Court to deliver a talk to parents about this workshop.

The workshop will be delivered to children on Friday 21st June and Tuesday 25th June (depending on whether they are going to Butlins or not). It follows Home Office recommendations and teaches Year 6 children how to keep themselves safe from exploitation. It is specifically designed for this age group and children will be given age appropriate information in a sensitive manner.

Declaration

I acknowledge receipt of the information regarding the proposed training and give my consent for my child to attend the county lines and child exploitation training which is delivered by Escapeline.

If you do not wish your child to be involved with this training, please inform us via ParentPay when prompted. If we do not hear from you, we will assume you are happy for your child to be part of the training. If you would like more information on the training, then please attend the parent workshop at 3.30pm on Tuesday 18th June.

Thank you for your support.

L Hall L Jones

Mrs Hall and Mrs Jones
Year 6 Teachers



ASPIRE

Ambition • Sincerity • Positivity • Integrity • Respect • Empathy