

Safeguarding

Grooming

Grooming is when someone builds a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a child or young person so they can manipulate, exploit and abuse them.

Children and young people who are groomed can be sexually abused, exploited or trafficked. Anybody can be a groomer, no matter their age, gender or race. Grooming can take place over a short or long period of time – from weeks to years. Groomers may also build a relationship with the young person's family or friends to make them seem trustworthy or authoritative.

Indicators of Grooming:

- being very secretive about how they're spending their time, including when online
- having an older boyfriend or girlfriend
- having money or new things like clothes and mobile phones that they can't or won't explain
- underage drinking or drug taking
- spending more time online or on their devices
- being upset, withdrawn or distressed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.

What to do if you think a child is being groomed..

- ***listen carefully to what they're saying***
- ***let them know they've done the right thing by telling you***
- ***tell them it's not their fault***
- ***say you'll take them seriously***
- ***explain what you'll do next***
- ***report what the child has told you to the DSL immediately***

**IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD,
DO NOT DELAY, TELL SOMEONE TODAY!**



Designated Safeguarding Lead - Stacey Kendall - Head Teacher
Deputy Safeguarding Lead - Trisha Highton - Deputy Head Teacher
Safeguarding Governor - The Rev Dr Naomi Wormell