Safeguarding week

11th-15th November
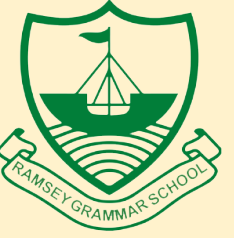
Exploitation
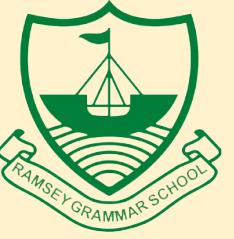
From the 11th-15th November, the Isle of Man is highlighting the importance of safeguarding with a specific safeguarding week.

We take safeguarding seriously everyday and we always want students to feel safe and secure.

Staff undertake safeguarding training and it is mentioned on our staff bulletin every week.

The theme for the week is exploitation.

Students in school will be educated about exploitation in a bid to keep them as safe as possible and also highlight to some students that this could possibly be happening to them and there is help. We have the police running assemblies and staff will show some short clips explaining what exploitation is.
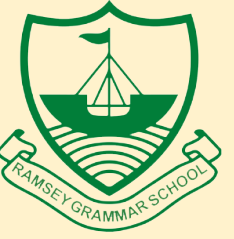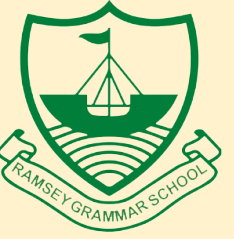
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The definition of child exploitation is when someone uses a child for financial gain, sexual gratification, labour or personal advantage.

This can be peer on peer, online, in the neighbourhood or in school.

Types of exploitation

Grooming- people build trust or connection with a young person for the purpose of manipulation or abuse. They may get compliments from someone, date someone or just be 'really good friends' with someone. On the IOM you have to be under the age of 16 to be 'groomed'.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE)- form of child sexual abuse. Imbalance of power to coerce or manipulate. The young person is groomed and then coerced into doing sexual activities which they may not want to do.

Child criminal exploitation- imbalance of power in exchange for something the victim needs/wants- then involve in criminal activity. Young people could receive vapes, money, drugs in exchange for doing something for them, for eg receive a package, or deliver something somewhere. Organised crime is much more common- online transfers being asked through accounts.

County lines-this is a term used to describe gangs & organised networks involved in importing drugs to the island. Links with 'gangs' across- can coerce young people to receive or move their drugs etc. In UK they can get sent to different areas to work for them. Families can also be threatened.

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Some signs to look out for;

A child may:

Be absent from school, sometimes only for a single lesson. They may be late or leave early

Have multiple mobile phones, or get excessive numbers of texts or calls

Use drugs or alcohol, or be found carrying a large amount of drugs

Be secretive – about where they're going after school, or what they're doing online

Associate with other children involved in exploitation, or spend time with older children and adults

Have money, expensive clothes or items that they can't or won't explain, including weapons

Be involved in serious violence (as a victim or perpetrator)

Become angry, aggressive or violent

Become isolated or withdrawn

Self-harm

Use new slang words

Show physical signs of abuse, such as bruising or bleeding, or have infections and soreness from concealing drugs internally
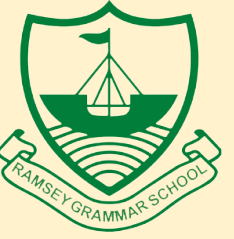
Go missing and be found away from home, or in accommodation they have no connection with

Carry hotel cards or keys for unknown places

Owe money to their exploiters

Have their bank account used to facilitate drug deal

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- ## Healthy friendships and relationships

Support and encourage each other
Treat each other as equals
Are honest
Earn their partner's trust
Also have separate interests and identities
Try hard to have honest and clear communication
Enjoy being with each other
Never hurt their partner physically or sexually
Treat their partner with respect and fairness

If you have any concerns about your child or any young person you know is not in a healthy relationship or you feel they maybe being exploited, please contact the police or school. We can get support for the young person.

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Short video clips to watch

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgM6ju2Xi-0
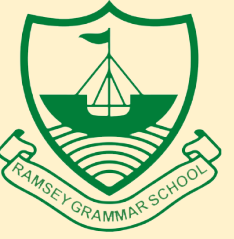
Stages of Child Criminal Exploitation (youtube.com)

What are the signs of Child Sexual Exploitation? (youtube.com)

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