

DROP DOWN DAY *year 8*

Your child will be participating in a Drop Down Day which has been created to enhance their PSHE provision. The aim of this day is to raise awareness about the exploitation of young people: what it is, how it happens, and where to go for help. These messages will be delivered through a series of workshops held by professionals from government and local agencies.

What is Exploitation?

Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of a child for their own profit or gain. It can take different forms. This includes:

- Child criminal exploitation – when a child is manipulated or pressured to take part in criminal activity, including moving money and selling drugs.
- Child sexual exploitation – a type of sexual abuse where someone is coerced, manipulated or pressured into sexual activity (this might be in exchange for gifts, affection, money or social status).

Both types of exploitation can be difficult for a child to recognise and they may not understand that they are being coerced.

What You Can Do

Try to spend quality time with your child on a regular basis. This can help you stay connected to what is going on in their life when they're not with you. Make sure they know they can speak to you about anything. People who exploit children often rely on the child not telling anyone.

Possible Signs

You may notice a change in your child's behaviour, such as:

- Sudden changes in their friendship groups,
- Problems in school – they might skip school or get into trouble more often,
- Unexplained money,
- Unexplained gifts,
- Going missing or leaving the house at odd hours or for short periods of time,
- Change of physical appearance, including the type of clothes they wear,
- Changes in behaviour – they might be more aggressive or more secretive,
- Changes in their language, including the use of slang words or code words for drugs or sex,
- Experimenting with drugs or alcohol,
- Unsafe use of the internet or spending a lot more time online,
- Unexplained injuries – this might be because of self-harm, or harm caused by someone else,
- Being picked up in cars driven by adults you don't know,
- Being in a relationship with someone who is much older than them.

The changes in behaviour listed above do not always mean your child is being exploited, so try to take a calm and open approach with them to find out what is going on.

If you have any concerns about your child please contact:
Children and Families: 686179
Police: 631212

Structure of the Day

Lesson 1: Students will watch a performance by Kensington Arts, which tells the story of a young person being exploited. The script was written specifically for this drop-down day.

Lessons 2-6: Students will rotate around different workshops that have been designed to give a balanced approach to the topic.

Workshops

Exploitation: An Island Context

Delivered by the IOM Constabulary

Students will explore what exploitation is and look at local examples.

Consequences of Crime

Delivered by the Prison Service

This session explores what life is like at Jurby Prison, and challenges myths and misconceptions.

Drama Workshop

Delivered by the Kensington Arts actors

A debrief of the morning performance and an interactive session with the performers.

Boundaries and Self-Worth

Delivered by Isle Listen

Students will be empowered to set healthy boundaries, explore the importance of support systems, and be encouraged to prioritise their mental health.

Exploitation

Delivered by Motiv8

Students will explore various addictive behaviours and how these relate to exploitation. Students will also be encouraged to think of where to go for help.