



Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me directly on:

Keelan-edwardsh@ripongrammar.com

Mrs H Keelan-Edwards, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Our Local Safeguarding risks include:

Child on Child abuse – online

Child on Child abuse – sexual harassment/sexual violence

Child criminal exploitation/County Lines

Please note: Our local Police School Liaison Officer is **Martin Powell**

Online Safety

The online world continues to develop and is both a vital learning tool, but also an area of risk for children and young people. There is plenty of information for parents and carers on the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership website to raise awareness of online dangers.

Games, consoles, smart devices and how to keep your child safe <https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/parents-carers/parent-info/games-consoles-smart-devices-and-how-to-keep-your-children-safe/>

Online Safety <https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/parents-carers/online-safety/>

Reporting online images of my child <https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/parents-carers/parent-info/reporting-images-online/>

Managing anxiety in children and young people - Young Minds

As we come towards the end of the academic year, many children will be moving on, some within the school and others to new places. Almost all young people will feel anxious to some extent and for some this anxiety can become overwhelming. Young Minds has really helpful information and advice for understanding and supporting a young person with anxiety, including resources to signpost them to.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/professional/resources/supporting-a-young-person-struggling-with-anxiety/>

Water Safety

As we approach the holiday season it is also worth keeping in mind the risks from open water and open water swimming. North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service have produced some informative videos about water safety and the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership have developed some guidance for parents and carers which can be accessed from their website <https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/parents-carers/water-safety/>

Gambling

A 2023 [report](#) from the Gambling Commission found that 40% of 11 to 17-year-olds had some experience of gambling in the preceding 12 months. That's a significant number of children and young people involved in an over 18's activity. Engagement and exposure to gambling can impact one's finances, mental health and wellbeing. It is crucial we are all aware of the risks and know how to protect and support our children.

It is quite challenging to protect our children against exposure to gambling at any time, but especially around major sports events like Euro 2024. The **Wake up Wednesday** guide (see the attached leaflet about gambling) tackles the most prominent risks that gambling poses to young people, and explains how best to protect against them.

Upskirting

On Friday 7th June between 8.20 - 8.40am a man lifted up a girl's skirt and took a photo. The man is estimated to be either late teens or early twenties. The man followed an 11 year old school girl (not an RGS student) who was walking to school along Allhallowsgate and Priest Lane in Ripon. When she stopped at some lights the man lifted up her skirt and took a photo on his phone.

Form tutors have spoken to their tutor groups to remind them to be vigilant and where possible walk home in pairs. If a student thinks they are being followed they have been advised to do the following:

Keep Calm

If you're on foot, stop to look at a store window or check your phone, while staying aware of your surroundings. Use that time to gather your thoughts, do a little deep breathing, and take stock of what's happening around you.

Pay attention

We do a lot of things on auto-pilot. If you think someone's stalking/following you, make a point of being extra observant.

Mix things up

People make wrong turns all the time, but it's rare for two people to make the same wrong turn at the same time. If you sense someone's following you, try a short detour. Turn away from your destination, and then double back. If a potential stalker mimics your manoeuvre, your suspicions may be warranted. If this happens, head to a public place or police station.

Go where the people are

Instead of walking home on your usual route, go into a busy coffee shop. Crowds can help deter stalkers from continuing to follow you or approaching you, as there are too many witnesses around.

Break out your phone

Call a friend or family member, tell them where you are, and stay on the phone with them until you feel comfortable.

Call the police

If you feel you are in immediate danger, don't hesitate to contact the police. Call 999, tell the dispatcher you are being followed and you are in danger.

County Lines - Ripon

As you will be aware Ripon has become a focus for Bradford and Leeds based drug groups to trade and recruit new people into their businesses.

Young people are often a target as some are easily influenced, impressed and when vulnerable they make easy targets.

If you are concerned that your child may be involved in county lines the following are signs that may indicate that your child is being exploited by a county lines gang:

- frequently going missing from school, home or care

-travelling to locations, or being found in areas they have no obvious connections with, including seaside or market towns

-unwillingness to explain their whereabouts

-they have multiple mobiles

-has unexplained injuries or bruising

-suddenly has lots of new items they can't afford.

If you are worried about your child, you should contact the police and seek help and support.

THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM AT RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MRS H KEELAN-EDWARDS – Deputy Headteacher Pastoral and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

MRS C DAY – Assistant Headteacher/ Head of Boarding and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

MR T FELL – Assistant Headteacher/ Head of Sixth Form and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

MRS E HEWISON – Pastoral Support Officer and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)