

School Nursing Service
Honeysuckle Lodge
St Catherine's Hospital
Tickhill Road
Doncaster
DN4 8QN
Tel: 01302 566776

15 December 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The school nursing services work with children and young people aged 5-19 years. Part of our role involves keeping children safe from harm. School nurses work very closely with schools and encourage parents and carers to discuss safety issues with their children from an early age. Such topics include stranger danger, internet, road safety and so forth. Understandably parents and carers often find it difficult to discuss issues such as keeping children safe from sexual abuse despite abuse incidents being high.

Sadly research tells us that sexual abuse continues to be a problem. Children can be abused at any age and from any background. It is also often carried out by someone they know including close relatives and family friends. The purpose of this letter is to inform parents and carers that the school nursing team will be visiting your child's school on **Friday 12th January 2024** to discuss this topic with your children.

The session will be very child focused. We do not use the words "sex" or "abuse". We will simply teach your child what areas of the body are considered safe to touch and what areas of the body are considered unsafe to touch. We also talk to children about when it may be safe to be touched in their private areas for example help with washing/drying, visiting the family doctor. We will encourage children to identify someone they trust so they feel comfortable reporting anything that makes them feel sad. We also discuss with children the difference between good and bad secrets and give examples of this relating to bad touch.

The session will be performed through colouring pictures, child friendly power point session and a sing-along video. Your child will then be given the opportunity to ask any questions and can take home the pictures they have coloured in class to create discussion at home.

We know that parents and carers cannot be with their children every minute of every day. Children and young people need freedom in order to grow and flourish for example attending out of school activities, having sleepovers at friends and so forth. In these instances parents/carers are not in control and this is why we need to provide children with the skills to independently recognise early indicators of sexual abuse and report concerns to someone they trust.

Please remember this session is provided to help protect your child from harm.

Yours faithfully,
Doncaster School Nursing Service