



30 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As a values driven school, we firmly believe in the importance of working in partnership with parents/carers to keep students safe at school, in the community and online. We have recently been informed by Nottinghamshire Police of a heightened risk in the local area linked to online grooming and subsequent child sexual exploitation. Consequently, we felt it was important to write to you to outline what we do as a school to educate students about online safety and to also share information and resources that can support you as parents/carers in protecting your children from risks such as online grooming and child sexual/criminal exploitation.

As a school, we educate our students about the risks of online grooming and child exploitation through assemblies, awareness days, in our Computing curriculum and our Personal Development curriculum. We also aim to provide all of our students with a member of staff they feel they can speak to which could be a member of their achievement team, a class teacher, or any member of staff they have a strong relationship with. We also encourage them to be able to speak to their families if they have any concerns. If you are worried that your child may have been exposed to any risks linked to online safety or child exploitation and would like to discuss this further or share information with us, please contact one of our safeguarding team HEAN-Safeguarding@heanorgatespencer.org.uk.

As parents and carers, you play an essential role in protecting your children online. Social media platforms and the internet are used by perpetrators to initiate the grooming process which can lead to child sexual/criminal exploitation. The 'Internet Matters' website (link below) provides really useful information about how you can help to minimise the risks and increase the awareness of online safety in your home. The website also includes 'how to' guides for popular social media sites:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-safety-guide/>

The NSPCC website (links below) provides useful information about grooming and child sexual/criminal exploitation including signs to look out for which may indicate a child is being exploited.

NSPCC – 'Grooming' <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/types-of-abuse/grooming/>

NSPCC - 'Protecting children from sexual exploitation'
<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-exploitation>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/types-of-abuse/county-lines/>

We know that children's safety and well-being is at the heart of all we do. Should you have any worries or want to talk further about any of these issues, please don't hesitate to contact our safeguarding team.

Yours sincerely

**Mr M Jones
Principal**