

King Ina Church of England Academy

Northfield
Somerton
Somerset, TA11 6FQ

Telephone: 01458 272587

Email: kinginaacademy@educ.somerset.gov.uk

KING INA



CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Monday 16th May 2022

Dear parents/carers

Today, Escapeline have visited all Years 5 & 6 classrooms and the children may come home wanting to talk to you about the information that has been shared with them. To aid your discussions, I wanted to provide you with a brief overview of the charity and the work they do.

Escapeline is a charity committed to the prevention of child exploitation across the south west of England.

What they do: They help young people to stay safe, by educating children and schools about how child exploitation and grooming works in rural and provincial areas and what to look out for and by teaching protective strategies.

They strengthen community knowledge of and responses to child exploitation by running awareness-raising campaigns and working closely with services. They help the families and carers of exploited young people and those at risk of exploitation through non-judgemental support and mentoring.

Escapeline are a multi-disciplinary team of social work specialists in child exploitation, child trauma and looked after children, teachers and experts-by-experience supported by business, legal and accountancy professionals.

They have trained police officers across the UK on child sexual exploitation and the psychological and emotional impact this has on victims and their work has resulted in changes relating to victim care and support.

They have experience of leading in child exploitation in the region and have extensive, practical knowledge and experience of how the child exploitation operates in the south west and the impact it has both on individuals, families and on local communities.

What is child exploitation? Child exploitation is the grooming and enslavement of children and young people for the purposes of making money through selling drugs, other illicit items and sexual exploitation.

Criminals recruit and groom young people to transport and deliver drugs in and around the south west of England and outside the area. Extreme violence and intimidation is used to control and trap children and to isolate them from their families and schools. Young people, in particular girls are also sexually exploited. Vulnerable adults are also at risk.

We are really pleased that the charity was able to come and see the children today to discuss this really important issue. The children have been actively involved in the discussion and we were really impressed with their sensible questions and responses.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Svenson
Headteacher