



# Highfields School

Co-Headteachers: Mr P R Cole & Mr B P Riggott



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Dear Parents/Carers

## **SAFEGUARDING OUR STUDENTS - CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

Over three weeks from 27 February, in partnership with the Derby City & Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board and the Derbyshire Police, we will be screening a film to Years 7 to 11 and providing activities and discussion on the subject of the dangers of online grooming, as part of our continued commitment to educate students around child sexual exploitation.

You may have seen recent national media publicity about the case of a 15-year-old schoolgirl from Leicestershire who was groomed online last November and subsequently raped, and murdered by her groomer's next door neighbour.

All criminal proceedings in this case are now over, with her groomer sentenced to 12 years in prison and her killer sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum recommendation of 35 years.

What makes this case so shocking and rare is not just the outcome, but the speed of events. Kayleigh Haywood received a Facebook message from a man she didn't know (Luke Harlow) on 31 October 2015. 15 days later, after an exchange of more than 2,600 text messages with her groomer, Kayleigh was raped and murdered by Harlow's neighbour (Stephen Beadman).

Leicestershire Police commissioned the film and has now made it available to all forces in the UK to use in Schools. In making the film, they consulted widely, both locally and nationally, with the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (COEP), with Headteachers, and with Child Sexual Exploitation Practitioners across the partnership landscape. Upon their advice, the film has been deemed suitable to be shown to 11 year olds and upwards, provided those screenings take place in controlled circumstances, with police officers, social workers and or other practitioners present at screenings, to answer questions, to manage reaction and possible disclosure, and to provide advice and information about online safety. If shown without any audience prior awareness as a trailer in a cinema, it would carry a certificate of 15.

The activity in school will include the film which is approximately 7 minutes, and two clips, one of the Headteacher, Eddie Green, where Kayleigh went to school and one of the Leicestershire Deputy Police Constable, Rodger Banister. The activity will include preparation for students, include workshops and an opportunity for question and answer and discussion which should prove highly effective in raising awareness of:-

- Healthy Relationships
- Safe Internet Use
- Risky Behaviour
- The Grooming Process
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Where young people can go for help and advice

Child Sexual Exploitation is a highly sensitive subject and every care has been taken to ensure that the production is hard-hitting and relevant without being graphic or offensive. The issues are raised and discussed in a manner entirely relevant and suitable for the target age group.

With high profile cases around the country currently making the news on a regular basis, it is all of our duties to raise awareness of this subject. Councils, charities, support agencies, schools, parents and carers all need to engage with and acknowledge this issue in order to give young people the tools and knowledge that they need to keep themselves and their friends safe.

The production will have the full support of Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Police and Safe and Sound (the Derby based voluntary organisation) during the tour who will make sure that the appropriate care is in place should any of the young people wish to discuss the issues in the film afterwards.

You are able to view the film on you tube by searching for "Kayleigh's Love Story". The full address is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsbYHI-rZOE&vl=nl-NL>

Should you have any questions or concerns about the production please contact one of the three safeguarding leads in the school, Mrs Claire Rifkin, Mrs Alison Ruston or Mr Karl Rodgers who will be happy to set your mind at rest and answer any questions.

Yours sincerely



P R Cole  
Co-Headteachers



B P Riggott