

October 2018

1. Drugs gangs are grooming pupils at grammar schools

Pupils at top schools are being groomed to work as drugs couriers because they are more likely to escape attention, it is claimed. Middle-class children as young as 12 are being pressured to join crime gangs through intimidation and blackmail as well as the lure of “status” and cash.

One headmaster says police warned him of the likelihood a pupil is killed within 12 months due to rising gang activity.

Andrew Fowler has described how youngsters are often approached at parties by gangs. Mr Fowler, head of Dane Court Grammar School, Broadstairs, Kent, revealed some pupils had been filmed taking part in a violent attack in a gang initiation.

The footage was then used to blackmail them into acting as drugs couriers.

Gang members loiter at the gates to continue grooming after school.

Pupils from good schools are said to be attractive recruits because their uniforms are less likely to attract police attention and they are less likely to have come to the notice of the authorities.

Mr Fowler, whose school is rated outstanding by Ofsted, said: “We have been told by the police there will probably be a fatal child stabbing of a pupil within the next 12 months.

“There are about 20 students we are concerned about. There are two or three who are certainly gang members.

“The age at which they are getting involved is getting younger and there are students in years 8 and 9 [aged 12-14] we are concerned about.

“I do not want to be labelled as the grammar school with the gang problem.

“There have been gang-related arrests of our pupils.

“One child was arrested on a burglary charge. Another, aged 13, on a criminal damage charge.

“Another arrest was for possession of cannabis. In some cases, the children at risk are middle class who are well looked after.”

Link: <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/992751/uk-crimewave-drug-gangs-grooming-grammar-school-pupils>

E safety Update



2. Guide to managing children's screen time

What are the benefits?

- Gives children access to a wealth of information to build their knowledge
- Technology takes away physical barriers to social connections to make children less isolated
- Exposure to tech has proven to improve children's learning and development
- Online games and activities enhance teamwork and creativity

The down side!

- Effect on behaviour Constant use of a device and features like auto-play on platforms can be habit forming and encourage children to spend longer on screens
- Effect on sleep Blue light from phones can trick the brain into thinking it's still day-light making it difficult to sleep
- Effect on the brain Screens can have a drug-like effect on the children's brains which can make them more anxious It can make children more forgetful as they rely on things like Google, GPS and calendar alerts to look up information

10 tips to get in control with your child's screen time

1. Set a good example with your own device use
2. Have discussions about the risks that they may face based on their online activities
3. Put in place a family agreement and agree an appropriate length of time they can use their device
4. Help them build critical thinking to understand that some features on platforms are design to keep you watching or playing
5. Encourage them to switch off auto-play on platform to remove the temptation to binge on programmes
6. Use tech tools and parental control to manage the time they spend online and the apps they use
7. Get the whole family to unplug and create 'screen free' zones at home
8. Together find apps, site and games that will help children explore their passions and make screen time active
9. For younger children find ways to combine touch screen use with creative and active play
10. Encourage children to self-regulate the time they spend online and the activity they do to ensure they are having a positive impact on their wellbeing

For more information about e safety :

- go to <http://www.blackpoolaspireacademy.co.uk>
- come into school and talk to a member of Student Services