



Dear Parent/Carer

Your School Community Police Officer (SCPO) is a regular visitor to your child's school. Along with providing advice and supportive policing the Officer also delivers lessons to pupils in the classroom.

The most important aspect of a SCPO's role is to help keep children safe and prevention education is at the heart of the role.

Lessons focus on three main themes: Safety, Substance Misuse and Behaviour. Many lessons and assemblies in the Safety Strand promote Internet safety, safer relationships and children's rights, including the right to be safe from any form of exploitation.

The four Police and Crime Commissioners, Police Forces and Welsh Government joined together to fund the development of a new lesson that explores the sensitive topic of Child Exploitation. This new lesson incorporates a ground breaking film, commissioned to help children in Year 6 recognise the signs when they feel uncomfortable about the way someone is treating them and to know who can help them.

The film is accessible to all learners and is available in Welsh, English and British Sign Language, with optional audio description.

The film aims to help give children the language and skills they need to speak up and tells the story of 10-year-old Griff, who attends a Saturday Club each week. There, a member of staff begins to show him favours and groom him.

Later, an older boy called Huw intervenes and helps Griff understand what is happening and to tell his mother and the SCPO at school.

Griff's Story is supported by Kirsty Williams AM, Minister for Education, who spoke at the launch of the new film saying the film was an excellent example of partnership working saying,

*"Keeping our children safe from harm is not something we can do in isolation,
we all need to work together."*

The lesson has been piloted in a number of schools across Wales, where teachers unanimously felt the topic was handled sensitively. Pupils also expressed that the lesson was really important and highly relevant to keeping them safe.

I am delighted to let you know that your SCPO will be delivering the lesson to year 6 pupils at your school soon.

To find out more about Griff's Story, please check out our website at www.schoolbeat.cymru.

The trailer is available on the launch event page schoolbeat.cymru/en/news/2019-griffs-story-launch/ and also by searching "Griff's Story" on YouTube.

Kind regards

Faith McCready