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## **Safeguarding Parent Newsletter - 17th March 2023**

### **Latest advice and guidance for parents and carers**

#### **Great Wyrley Academy Safeguarding Team**

The Great Wyrley Academy Safeguarding Team has been trained to an advanced level on all aspects of safeguarding. The team is available to any student, parent or school staff member to discuss and report any safeguarding concerns.

**Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Mr D Fielder

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:** Mrs M McCarthy, Mrs J Foyle, Mr J McFarlane, Mrs S Herrington, Mr J Studholme

#### **Overview**

Welcome to our latest edition of the Newsletter from the Great Wyrley Academy Safeguarding Team. Our aim is to bring you all the latest, relevant help and advice on issues that we feel will be of importance to you.

At Great Wyrley Academy, both staff and students are trained and educated in many areas of safeguarding. Staff are informed of the signs and symptoms to look for and be aware of, that could be an indication that there is a concern and how to report concerns. Students are given appropriate information into safeguarding topics and given strategies on how to stay safe. One area in particular that we cover for both staff and students is Child Criminal Exploitation and County Lines.

## Child Criminal Exploitation

What is child criminal exploitation CCE?

Definition. The Home Office defines Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) as: Child Criminal Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18.

## County Lines

What are county lines?

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation where urban gangs persuade, coerce or force children and young people to store drugs and money and/or transport them to suburban areas, markets towns and coastal towns (Home Office, 2018). It can happen in any part of the UK and is against the law and a form of child abuse.

## E-learning for Parents

The South Staffordshire Harm Reduction Hub has recently shared information with the school from PACE (Parents Against Child Exploitation) relating in particular to exploitation, county lines and the signs to look out for.

In addition, PACE have a FREE County Lines e-learning course for parents that takes 20 minutes to complete:

[County Lines e-learning course for parents](#)

## Andrew Tate

You might have heard of social media influencer Andrew Tate, who's recently been in the news. We know that children are reading his messages and posts about violence towards women, and his views can be dangerous for both boys and girls. Read the information below so you're prepared and able to talk to your child about Andrew Tate and his opinions.

# Andrew Tate

You may have seen this name pop up in the news, or you may have heard about him from your children. Find out who he is, why he's in the news, the risks he poses and how to talk about him at home.

### Who is Andrew Tate?

Social media influencer with over 5 million followers on Twitter

Former professional kickboxer

Previous *Big Brother* contestant

### Why is he in the news?

In 2022, Andrew Tate was banned from YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok due to his controversial and misogynistic (hatred and discrimination against women) posts.

In December 2022, he was arrested in Romania along with his brother on suspicion of human trafficking, organised crime and rape.

### How does this affect our children?

Andrew Tate, sometimes referred to as the 'king of misogyny', is a famous and influential figure on social media, even after being banned. He draws a lot of attention to his extreme wealth, luxury lifestyle and possessions, such as his expensive cars.

Children may still see his content (as other people can still share his posts) and may believe that acting and thinking like he does will lead to fame, fortune and success.

He promotes ideas such as:

Men are more important and more powerful than women

Violence against woman is okay

Men shouldn't show emotion

He has said things like:

"I think the women belong to the man"

"[Women are] intrinsically lazy"

"[There is] no such thing as an independent female"

"Depression isn't real"

"The hallmark of a real man is controlling himself, controlling his emotions,

and acting appropriately regardless of how he feels”

We know children are talking about Andrew Tate, and boys in particular are being influenced and ‘groomed’ by his views, with concerns that his power and influence could lead to radicalisation and violence against women. Girls are also in danger of accepting that what he says about women is true (i.e. that they’re worth less than men).

### **What can we do as parents?**

We are talking about topics raised by Andrew Tate in school, for example:

As a school we have already begun to and will continue to educate and tackle misogyny/toxic masculinity in school, through our behaviour policy and RSE Curriculum, which is delivered on our Aspire Days and Form Time activities.

However, children are less likely to listen to influencers such as Andrew Tate if they are having similar conversations reinforced at home.

We recommend you:

1. Read recent news articles about Andrew Tate, if you’re not already familiar with him (you can find some in the ‘Sources’ box below).
2. Ask your child what they’re getting up to online – show genuine interest, don’t judge them or tell them what they should and shouldn’t be doing. Children are more likely to share if they feel you’re interested, rather than trying to check up on them.
3. Have open discussions about Andrew Tate – don’t tell your child how to think, but question their thinking and understanding. Ask if they believe what Andrew Tate says, for example his comments that women “belong” to men, and how that might make the women in their lives feel, or they themselves feel. The charity Bold Voices have a great toolkit to help with this, which you can find in the ‘Sources’ box below.
4. Be role models – encourage your child to be open with their emotions. Teach them that it’s okay to cry if you’re sad. Show respect for women and girls, and encourage your child to model this behaviour.

### **Sources**

This factsheet was produced by [The Key Safeguarding](http://www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding): [www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding](http://www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding)

[Andrew Tate’s appeal to Birmingham schoolboys ‘looking for direction’](#), BBC News

[Andrew Tate toolkit](#), Bold Voices

[How to talk to your children about Andrew Tate and online misogyny](#), Evening Standard

[How to talk to children about Andrew Tate and other toxic views online](#), The British Psychological Society

[‘We see misogyny every day’: how Andrew Tate’s twisted ideology infiltrated British schools](#), The Guardian