Tuesday 7 November 2017

Dear parents and carers

**The ‘NSPCC’s *Speak out. Stay safe’* programme is visiting our school to make sure our pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse.**

I’m pleased to tell you that we will be working with the NSPCC, the UK’s leading children’s charity, who’ll be delivering their ‘***Speak out. Stay safe’*** programme on **Friday 10 November 2017.**  This is a nationwide programme for every primary-school-aged child in the UK and Channel Islands. With the help of their friendly mascot Buddy, they’ll be presenting assemblies to both the KS1 and KS2 children in our school as well as a workshop for Years 5/6.

**"NSPCC has helped me to build the confidence to tell people about my worries and problems." Child’s feedback**

**What is the ‘*Speak out. Stay safe’* programme?**

Through child-friendly, interactive assemblies and workshops their specially trained staff and volunteers will give our children information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries, sensitively discussing issues like bullying and sexual abuse, without using scary words or adult language.

We have studied the content of the materials and heard from other schools who have participated and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of their visit, we’re convinced children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

**“I wanted to thank you for your presentations and workshops in Carrick Primary School, Warrenpoint.  They were really good and pitched just at the right level for the different age groups of children”- *Principal, Anne Cassidy***

**"This service provides important information in a child-friendly way – it should be made mandatory in all schools. A brilliant service!" *Teacher, Wistaston Primary, Crewe***

**Talking about the Underwear Rule with your children**

The NSPCC’s work in schools will help encourage conversations about staying safe – and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation afterwards. That includes ‘The Underwear Rule’, a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from sexual abuse – without using scary words or even mentioning sex.

The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can find out more and download the free resources at **nspcc.org.uk/pants**

If you’d like to know more about the NSPCC’s work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website **nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/**

If you would like any more information about the NSPCC **‘*Speak out. Stay safe’*** programme, including frequently asked questions, you can find it on the NSPCC website **nspcc.org.uk/schools** or please come into speak to me and I can provide more information.

This programme is very highly regarded and the NSPCC have delivered ‘Speak out. Stay Safe’ in previous years. However, if you do not wish your child to be part of the assembly or Y5/6 worskshop, please notify the school office before Friday 10 November 2017.

Yours sincerely

Mr Simon Beahan