



Whitburn Church of England Academy

An Academy with Specialist Status in Maths and Computing

Whitburn, Sunderland, SR6 7EF Principal: A Hardie M.A. (Hons) M.S.c P.G.C.E
Telephone: 0191 529 3712 Facsimile 0191 529 5569 E-mail: office@whitburncofeacademy.org

'Excellence for All'

11th July 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

On **Tuesday July 15th** at **1:30pm**, Year 8 pupils will attend a play at Temple Park Leisure Centre, South Shields. The production, entitled "Chelsea's Choice", has been commissioned by the Local Safeguarding Children Board and will be delivered by Applied Theatre specialists AlterEgo Creative Solutions.

The play, which has now been seen by over 100,000 young people around the UK, tells the story of a group of three students who discover the diary of a girl called Chelsea. Chelsea was a young girl who, having fallen out with her friends and family, was approached by a man called Gary. Gary was older, owned a car, had a flat and treated her like an adult. Unfortunately Gary was not what he seemed to be. Chelsea's story is played out and examined by the three students along with their teacher in an attempt to understand what happened to Chelsea and how it could have been prevented.

The 35 minute production and post-show Question and Answer session have proven 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.

"The Government believes that local initiatives like 'Chelsea's Choice' have a key role to play in preventing grooming and exploitation and in helping keep children safe from this heinous crime." - Rohini Krishnamurthy, Child Safeguarding Division, Department for Education.

With high profile cases around the country currently making the news on a regular basis, it is the duty of everyone 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.

Document available in large font, alternative language or audio format on request



Whitburn Church of England Academy is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (Company Number 07465520)
Registered Office: Whitburn Church of England Academy, Whitburn, Sunderland, SR6 7EF

The production has the full support of the Academy, Children and Families Social Care and Northumbria Police, who will make sure that the appropriate support is in place should any of the young people wish to discuss the issues in the play afterwards.

Parents and carers are invited to a performance of Chelsea's Choice on **Wednesday 16th July, 6.30pm** in the main hall at **Temple Park Leisure Centre**. This is a free event.

Parents can also access a wide variety of information about this issue on the PACE (Parents against child sexual exploitation) website <http://www.paceuk.info>.

Should you have any questions or concerns about the production please do not hesitate to contact me via the Main Academy Office.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V Latimer-Mills". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

V Latimer-Mills
Head of Learning Year 8