CARR JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Happy Friendships, Better Lives, No Knives

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am pleased to tell you that this term we will be participating in Yorkshire Mentoring Happy Friendships workshops. These workshops use discussion, case studies, card sort activities, videos and quizzes to explore friendships, healthy and safe relationships, peer pressure (specifically to take part in criminal activity) social media and making positive choices. They use open discussion throughout to keep things in perspective and age appropriate as well as discussing consequences and who and were to turn to for help.

This workshop is designed for Year 5 and 6 pupils and each class will participate in four hours of in-class time, usually across two weeks. **The workshops will be held on 17th and 24th September for Year 6 and 18th and 25th September for Year 5.**

After the success of these workshops in primary schools across South and West Yorkshire. Yorkshire Mentoring secured a grant to undertake the Safer York Futures Work in partnership with Excel Learning Trust and in Carr Junior School supported via York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority. Children are known to engage very well in these workshops – some feedback from children has been;

“I have learnt about how to deal with peer pressure and to make the right choices, I really enjoyed the whole workshop”
“I really liked the workshop and it made me feel safe”
I really liked this workshop and would like to do it again”
“I learnt about friendships, social media and the consequences of crime. I understand how to stay away from bad things now”

The workshop

The workshop is particularly relevant to this age group: Since January 2009, the Crime Survey of England & Wales (CSEW) has asked children aged 10 to 15 living in private households in England and Wales about their experience of crime in the previous 12 months. In the year ending March 2018, 6.5% of 10-15 year olds knew someone who carried a knife, as did a similar percentage (5.7%) of 16-29 year olds. Less than 1% of respondents of both age groups indicated that they carried a knife.

[https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN04304/SN04304.pdf]

This workshop may be delivered as part of a primary school's Relationships Education as it addresses the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, respect for others, understanding boundaries in friendships with peers and how to report concerns and seek advice. [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education]

We hope you will enjoy discussing what the children have learnt with them. We are confident that they will feel empowered and will have the knowledge to better understand how to stay safe in their world both now and in the future.

Kind regards,

Laura Winston
Head of School