



Hazelwick School

An Academy

Headteacher: Mr D Leadbitter BA (Hons) NPQH
Chair of Governors: Mr L Clark



February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Safer Crawley Year 8 Event – 17th March

Safeguarding is a key responsibility of schools and at Hazelwick we use a range of methods and structures to support our students. A range of age-appropriate topics are covered in PSHE and VBE lessons through Years 7-11. Assemblies are held by senior pastoral staff to raise additional safeguarding concerns throughout the year and the monthly newsletter that is sent to all parents/carers contains a Spotlight on Safeguarding that highlights a particular issue each month.

To compliment the safeguarding education and support in school, on Tuesday March 17th, all Year 8 students will be attending a safeguarding event called Safer Crawley. The event will be held at the Hawth theatre and further details are in the attached information sheet. This event and its content will be discussed and prepared in PSHE lessons prior to 17th March and there will be a survey before and after the event for students to complete. The link for the online questionnaire will be put on Satchel: One.

All secondary schools in Crawley will be taking their Year 8 students to pre-arrange time slots for the event and Hazelwick's time slot is 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. There is no charge for the event for parents/carers. Coaches are being provided to transport students from Hazelwick to the Hawth and back again and therefore students will need to make sure they arrive at school on time as usual. They will not need to take anything specific with them and they will be in normal school uniform. Upon their return to school, they will continue with timetabled lessons so they will need their normal school equipment for the day.

This is the 6th time that this annual event has taken place and we once again look forward to taking our students to this informative and beneficial opportunity.

Yours faithfully

Ms M Rao
Deputy Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead



February 2026

Safer Crawley Project

Every single Year 8 student from schools across Crawley has been invited to attend The Hawth theatre for a project aimed at making Crawley safer for young people, and making them more aware of the potential risks of carrying knives and "County Lines". This event will take place on the 17th March 2026.

The event has been devised and arranged by all 7 secondary schools in Crawley, and will be delivered by the St Giles Trust, a charity who have experience in helping young people who are at risk of becoming involved in gangs and violence. They will be joined by several other organisations with the sole aim of educating young people through presentations and workshops.

County Lines

'County Lines' is a recent term used by police and partner agencies to refer to drug networks that originate from large urban areas such as London to more rural communities such as Crawley.

Gangs and organised crime groups will often use young, vulnerable people to carry out illegal activity such as drug dealing.



Signs to look for if you are worried about a young person;

- Persistently going missing.
- Unexplained gifts, money, clothing etc.
- Excessive text messages or phone calls.
- Relationships with older people or gang association.

What can you do?

Ask questions about the behaviour and explain the risks involved in this activity.

www.fearless.org/en can be used to anonymously report concerns about drug dealing

Knife Crime

Operation Sceptre is a police led initiative, which aims to keep the streets safe from knife crime.

Some young people carry a knife because they are worried about becoming the victim of a crime.



Signs to look for if you are worried about a young person;

- Secretive about their belongings.
- Changes in behaviour.
- Vague about what they are doing outside of school.

What can you do?

Ask their views on knife crime.
Support them and explain the risks involved.
Speak to them about the dangers, the facts, the law and the consequences.

Visit www.knifecrimes.org/ for helpful information about knife crime.

Helpful resources for parents & carers

www.westsussexscp.org.uk/ for advice and support with a range of safeguarding challenges facing young people.

www.nspcc.org.uk/ for support and confidential reporting of concerns.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DK5S-M549A&safe=true a video from St Giles Trust about a project set up to tackle knife crime and exploitation among young people.

