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THIS LETTER IS WRITTEN BY THE JOINT SAEFGUARDING AUTHORITIES IN SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND BRISTOL AS WELL AS AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE FORCE

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are aware of posts circulating on social media relating to a national online trend that appears to encourage violence between pupils. Some of these posts refer to schools in the Bristol and South Gloucestershire area. We recognise that this will be worrying for some families, so we want to reassure you that we are closely monitoring the situation and working with our local partners.

Avon and Somerset Police have confirmed that, at this time, there is no intelligence to suggest that these posts relate to any real or planned incidents.

To help keep your child safe, parents and carers may wish to:

- Have open, non-judgemental conversations with your child about their online activity and what they may be seeing or hearing
- Make it clear that any trend promoting division, confrontation, or violence is unsafe and unacceptable
- Explain that simply attending or observing organised gatherings can still put them in danger
- Encourage them to speak to you, a teacher, or another trusted adult if they feel pressured to take part.

Families are urged not to repost or circulate related content, as this can unintentionally amplify the situation. Further advice and information on anonymously reporting concerns is available at Fearless.org

You may see an increased police presence in some areas over the coming days, mostly around secondary schools. This is being arranged to provide visible reassurance within the community and includes additional patrols outside several schools.

School remains the safest place for children and young people, and we continue to follow our usual safeguarding procedures. If you or your child have any concerns, please contact us directly so that we can provide support.

- Call 999 in an emergency or if anyone is at immediate risk of harm.
- Avon and Somerset Police non-emergency number: 101
- To raise concerns about a child or young person: – Bristol City Council Social Care: 0117 903 6444 – South Gloucestershire Council Social Care: 01454 866000
- Mental health support (Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership): – Adults: 0800 953 1919 – Children and young people: 0800 953 9599
- Online emotional wellbeing support for young people aged 11–18:

If you have any questions or would like further reassurance, please get in touch with the school.

On Friday, we did see a message that may be linked to these aspects on social media on one of our sheds in school. As soon as we were aware of the situation this message was removed. We know that this was not written in paint by any of our pupils and wasn't on site the afternoon previously. We have reassured those pupils who did see the offensive message that this was not directly linked to them.

Therefore, if you do live near school and see anything suspicious after school hours then please contact the police. Thank you in advance.

The children are safe in school and the staff remain vigilant to anything that may cause concern to the children.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.D. Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Paul D Smith
Executive Head Teacher