

# Wood End Park Academy

## Local Concerns - October



### Hillingdon – Updates

#### Colours representing gangs within the Borough

Axis have been made aware of the colours worn by gangs within Borough.

- West Drayton – Green
- Hillingdon – Blue
- Hayes - Red

Axis asks professionals to continue sharing information regarding gangs to help assist the West Area Gangs unit. It is important to track who is linked to what gang and the risks this may mean for your children as well as professionals if out in the community with them.

Axis have also been monitoring the Instagram page [Westlondonrill\\_](#) as this page often adds Childrens score profiles listing incidents they may have been involved in along with their tag names and gang association.

#### New drugs alert across London

Axis have received information from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) concerning multiple drug-related incidents that have occurred recently in London. The OHID is a government unit within the British Department of Health and Social Care that leads national efforts to improve public health policy across England .

The Metropolitan Police have seized a substance which is beige / yellow in appearance, and which has been confirmed positive for Metonitazene. Metonitazene is regarded as a dangerous substance which has a similar toxicity to fentanyl. Given this finding, internally, the Police have requested that testing of all brown/ beige/ yellow coloured powders and suspected heroin powders and substances is submitted for forensic examination.

There has also been concerns about harms in several central London boroughs associated with a substance reported to be Spice. Two deaths and at least three hospitalisations across several boroughs were reported. At this stage the service is not able to confirm whether the individual incidents relate to adulterated substances or are associated with poly drug use of “normal” substances. However, because of the number of incidents action is being taken across these boroughs to alert drug users and those who work with them of possible increased harm.

## **Blue Whale Challenge**

Axis have been informed of Hillingdon children possibly taking part in the Blue Whale Challenge. The Blue Whale Challenge is a social media challenge that encourages children, teenagers & other users to perform specific tasks, over the course of 50 days that are assigned to them by an anonymous “group administrator.” The tasks escalate throughout the 50 days and on the last day of the challenge the only way to “win” is to die by suicide.

### **What can parents/professionals do?**

Get involved, have a healthy dialogue with your child about their day and social media.

- Pay attention to any changes in your child’s behaviour, especially if they become reserved, withdrawn, or fearful of social media
- Urge your child to report any misbehavior they encounter online and on social media
- Teach your child to keep private things private, especially on the internet. If they are struggling, encourage your child to confide in you, a family member, or a trusted adult
- Parents/carers remember that “loving” your child means taking actions that may make your child not “like” you at times
- Parents/carers - It’s okay to take your child’s phone, search through it and make sure they are interacting with people you know (and in a way that’s healthy)