



Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope this email finds you and your families well.

For those of you I have not met, my name is Steve Ive and I am the Assistant Principal for Student Support and Designated Safeguarding Lead at Wellsway School and IKB Academy.

I am excited to invite you to our Wellsway and IKB Student Well – Being Parent / Carer Information Evening on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 6 – 7pm in Lansdown Hall (Wellsway School).

The topic is “It is never going to happen to my child... ?” which aims to raise awareness of the criminal, sexual exploitation of children use of social media app and gaming. The session will be run by Andri Nicolaou, Operation TOPAZ from Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

Content:

- Overview of online risks.
- Exploitation of children online / offline.
- Top tips on starting a conversation with your child about the exploitation/grooming and how to work together to use the internet safely.

Nationally, there has been an increase in media coverage of child exploitation and we’re keen to help parents recognise the signs and provide advice on how you can protect your child and their friends.

Exploitation and online grooming can happen to any child, or young person under the age of 18, from any background. It happens to boys and young men as well as girls and young women.

Please rest assured there is no need to be concerned or alarmed.

If you’d like to come but are unable to make it, you can find information at

[www.thisisnotanexcuse.org](http://www.thisisnotanexcuse.org) and

YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf41oqL0DZCDK0mdj6ulSDg>

If you plan on attending, I would be grateful if you could please click on the link below and complete the quick and simple MS Form, so we know how many parent / carers to expect.

<https://forms.office.com/e/t8WUAehK15>

Feedback by parents / carers who attended our last Student Well – Being Evening was overwhelmingly positive. I hope lots of you will take up this great opportunity to get advice and guidance on such important safeguarding topics for young people from experts in their field.

Yours faithfully

**Steve Ive**  
**Assistant Principal: Student Support & DSL**  
**Wellsway School & IKB Academy**

