

11<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parent/Carer

We are proud of our Swindon children and recognise that Swindon is generally a safe place to live, to ensure it remains that way we are having two weeks in September where we ensure we remind children and educate parents of the risks associated with drugs and carrying weapons. Swindon Borough Council, your child's school and Wiltshire Police are launching an initiative to help your child - *"Save a Friend"*.

This project has come about following almost constant tragic news coming out of our country's cities - young people's lives being lost and children are being exploited by very well organised county line gangs. It is time for us all to stand up and say *"not in our town"*.

We recognise we do have a small minority of children who are engaging in risky and dangerous behaviours. We want all children in Swindon to be able to make positive choices in their lives with our support.

We will be focussing on how children can help a friend if they think they are at risk of being exploited, are making bad/risky decisions or feel they need to carry a weapon and also to help themselves. We will help children realise the dangers of getting involved in this type activity, how it impacts on their long term outcomes, the obvious risks to their health and wellbeing and how they can sign post their friend or themselves to agencies who can help them.

There will be a range of activities led by different agencies within the town, all of which will educate your child and hopefully in the long run help them make the right decisions if faced with potential dilemmas.

Our aim is also to give you parents the information you need to spot the signs of danger, as you are best placed to protect your children, or how you can best advise them if they are worried.

We have produced a Parent's Guide with useful information, web links and where to go for help and information. This is available on our website and hard copies are available in Main reception.

*Dream Big • Aim High • Reach Far*



Please contact your child's school if you would like further information.

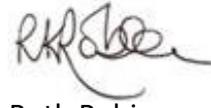
Yours faithfully,



Head of Crime Prevention  
Wiltshire Police Crime  
Prevention Department



Head of Education  
Swindon Borough Council



Ruth Robinson  
Executive Principal



**Swindon Academy**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning