



Parent/Carer Guidance: Year 9 PSHE – Criminal Behaviour

This guide helps you understand what your child will learn in **Year 9 Topic 3 – Criminal Behaviour** and how you can support their safety, wellbeing, and positive decision-making at home. The lessons cover serious but age-appropriate topics such as exploitation, knife crime, radicalisation, online risks, and youth offending.

🎯 Why This Topic Matters

These PSHE lessons are designed to help young people:

Recognise risks linked to criminal exploitation and online harm

Understand what drives harmful behaviours and how to avoid them

Learn how to keep themselves and others safe

Know how to seek help and support when things go wrong

This approach reflects statutory expectations in PSHE/RSHE that schools teach safeguarding, personal wellbeing and protective behaviours in a safe, age-appropriate way.

📄 Lesson Summaries & What to Watch For

Lesson 1 — County Lines

What your child learns:

County lines refers to gangs exploiting young people to move drugs or money across areas. It focuses on recognising how coercion works and where to get help.

Signs of concern may include: unexplained travel, new phone numbers, unexplained tickets, secretive behaviour, or unexplained cash/phones.

Lesson 2 — Causes of Knife Crime

What your child learns:

Knife crime may be connected to peer pressure, self-defence fears, gang involvement, or criminal exploitation. Lessons emphasise consequences, healthy conflict resolution and support services.

How to support:

Talk with your child about pressures they might feel, fear of violence, and safer alternatives; reinforce that carrying blades is illegal and harmful.



Lesson 3 — The Radicalisation Process

What your child learns:

Radicalisation is the process of being influenced into harmful beliefs or actions. Schools teach how to spot manipulation and where to safely seek help.

Parent tips:

Discuss online content critically, encourage questions about extremist messages and let your child know they can talk to you or a trusted adult about anything worrying.

Lesson 4 — Child Exploitation & Online Protection

What your child learns:

This lesson covers criminal and sexual exploitation, including online grooming and coercion. Students learn to identify signs of harm and how to respond.

Top parental actions:

Review privacy settings, talk about online friendships, and set clear expectations about sharing personal info online.

Lesson 5 — Illegal Online Behaviours

What your child learns:

This includes behaviours like cyber-bullying, sharing harmful material, scammers, grooming, and online recruitment. It links offline crime to online actions.

Talk about:

Appropriate digital conduct, how to block/report harmful contacts, and why it's important to avoid getting involved in illegal activities online.

Lesson 6 — Youth Offenders

What your child learns:

An overview of what happens when young people commit crime — the justice system, consequences, rehabilitation, and how to avoid risky decisions.

Helpful discussion:

Explain that mistakes are part of learning, but the law protects young people and there are services focused on helping them reform.



Useful UK-Wide Support for Parents & Families

Online Safety & Exploitation

NSPCC – Advice on county lines and exploitation, plus a **helpline (0808 800 5000)** and **Childline (0800 1111)** for young people.

Internet Matters – Practical online safety guides and parental controls.

Safer Internet UK – Resources for online risk, reporting, and safety.

NSPCC Online Safety Advice – Help keeping children safe on apps and platforms.

Educate Against Hate / Let's Talk About It – Support for parents worried about radicalisation.

ACT Early – Confidential advice for concerns about extremism.

Local Support in Rotherham (England)

Safeguarding & Exploitation Help

Prevent & Channel – Rotherham Council – Support for safeguarding against radicalisation and exploitation.

South Yorkshire Police 'Stop Child Exploitation' campaign – Specialist exploitation teams locally with guidance on reporting concerns.

Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) – Offers online safety guides and parent info.

Evolve Team (Rotherham) – Multi-agency support for child sexual exploitation and family support.

Emergency support:

If you believe a child is in immediate danger, always call **999**. For non-emergencies, contact **South Yorkshire Police on 101**.

How Parents Can Talk About These Topics

Conversation starters

“What did you learn about county lines today? What surprised you?”

“Why do you think some young people carry knives? How could you respond if someone pressured you?”

“Have you ever seen anything online that made you feel uncomfortable or confused?”

“Who would you tell if someone started asking you to do something illegal?”



Supporting emotional safety

Listen without judgment or anger — young people open up when they know they won't be blamed.

Set boundaries around devices but explain why it's for safety, not punishment.

Encourage healthy offline activities — sports, clubs, hobbies, volunteering.

Reminder for Parents

Your conversations matter. Most young people don't want to be involved in crime; they just want support, understanding, and guidance on how to make safe choices. If you're worried, reach out early — to teachers, police, or safeguarding professionals — to get help and keep your child safe.

Helplines & Quick Links

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

Childline: 0800 1111

South Yorkshire Police: 101 (or 999 in emergencies)

Internet Matters: <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Safer Internet UK: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

Educate Against Hate: <https://educateagainsthate.com/>

If you would like to discuss this in any more detail please contact ebannister@wickersleypt.org,
Director of PSHE