

Hitches Lane, Fleet, Hants GU51 5JA
t: 01252 613483
e: contactus@cps.hants.sch.uk
w: www.cps.hants.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr K John

12th June 2025

Dear Parent,

Following some Safeguarding concerns relating to a small number of students attending Calthorpe Park School, we have opted into an education programme that warns about the dangers and consequences of becoming a money mule. The programme of education will be delivered as part of our PHSE curriculum but we would like to use this opportunity to bring this matter to your attention and to enlist your support outside of school in helping to protect your child. You may not be aware of the term 'money mule' so we felt it was imperative that we write to you to explain what this exploitation is and how it's taking place.

What is a money mule?

A money mule is someone who transfers stolen money through their own bank account on behalf of someone else and is often paid for doing so, either in cash or with high value items which may appeal to young people such as phones or trainers. Criminals need money mules to launder the profits of their crimes. Young people are increasingly being targeted to become money mules. They are approached online or in person, including through social media including platforms like TikTok and Snapchat, at school, college or sports clubs.

Young people may be recruited as money mules by people they know. Often because they are also acting as money mules. Mules will usually be unaware of where the money comes from – commonly fraud and scams – and that it can go on to fund crimes such as drug dealing, people trafficking and terrorist activity. Young people will be given plausible explanations relating to the source of these funds and their innocence is exploited. They may also be offered what they perceive to be genuine friendship and they may be flattered, often by individuals who are slightly older.

What are the legal consequences of being involved?

Being a money mule is illegal. When someone is caught, their bank account will be closed, and they will have problems getting student loans, mobile phone contracts and credit in the future. They could even face arrest for money laundering which carries a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison.

What should parents look out for?

Tell-tale signs that someone might be involved could be them suddenly having extra cash, buying expensive new clothes or top-of-the-range mobile phones and gadgets with very little explanation as to how they got the money. They may also become more secretive, withdrawn or appear stressed. Indications of children becoming 'money mules' are often very similar to those signs that suggest children are being drawn into County Lines drug operations.

There is a wealth of information available which you and your child can access by visiting www.dontbefooled.org.uk.

If you are worried that someone close to you might be involved in money muling, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. You can also contact our Safeguarding Team to share your concerns or suspicions. We can be contacted by emailing: safeguarding@cps.hants.sch.uk. We are already working closely with police divisions and we actively share intelligence to protect our young people and our community.

Please do not attempt to contact any individual you suspect of organising money muling. They are often part of highly sophisticated organised crime gangs with a history of engaging in violent crime.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Jones
Deputy Headteacher

DON'T BE FOOLED

 UK Finance  cifas