



Safeguarding Newsletter

September 2017

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY
Part of the St Gilbert of Sempringham Catholic Academy Trust

"We grow and learn as a family in the footsteps of Jesus"

Health and Safety.

We are continually checking our school environment to ensure it is safe for all our children. Please notify either myself or Mrs Emerson of any concerns you have.

Our health and safety governor is Mr O Kane and he works very hard to make sure we are constantly updated on health and safety regulations.

Risk assessments are revised regularly and used for all our off site visits.

Please can I remind all parents not to open the front door into our main reception area to ensure our children are kept safe.

Thank you all for your cooperation in this area.

At English Martyrs we take safeguarding very seriously and together we can work to keep all our children safe. I have put lots of information into this newsletter to make parents aware of safeguarding procedures, so you can keep it for future reference, and I will update this information when appropriate.

Our designated safeguarding leads in English Martyrs are Mrs Chambers, Mrs Emmerson and Mrs Scott. Our governor for safeguarding is Mrs Julia Weber. You can contact any of these individuals in connection with safeguarding issues, or if you feel you need help or support with family issues as we can signpost you to services which may be available in the local area.

All staff in our school receive updated safeguarding training frequently and safeguarding issues are discussed weekly through our morning briefings or weekly staff meetings if necessary.

School Nurse Drop Ins

Our school nurse is Paula Watts and she will be dropping into school monthly for parents, carers and staff to access any health needs or questions. The first session is 5th October between 9am and 10 am with the second session planned for 9th November between 9am and 10 am. We will advertise future sessions through the school newsletter. The confidential advice and support line can be accessed by texting 07520615382.

Prevent Training.

This term all staff have completed an online prevent training to inform them of signs to identify in connection with extremism and radicalisation.

This is currently discussed frequently in our daily lives but includes extremism of any kind that children may show signs of.

A website has been launched called Education against Hate which offers parents practical advice and information about extremism and radicalisation. It includes information on :

- Warning signs
- How parents should talk to children about extremism
- Steps concerned parents should take

The website has advice regarding preventing all forms of extremism including for example far right views.

<http://www.educateagainsthate.com/>

Children Missing in Education.

Children missing in education are school aged children who are not registered pupils at a school and not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school. Children missing in education are at significant risk of under achieving, being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation. Effective information sharing is vital between parents, schools and local authorities to ensure that all children of compulsory school age are safe and receiving suitable education.

Online Safety

We continually work with the children to equip them with valuable knowledge and skills, to help keep themselves safe when on line, and more information for parents on this area can be found in our pocket guide currently on the website.

In school we have appropriate filters in place to prevent children accessing harmful content via the school's internet. We also focus our thoughts on this subject during e safety week and hold an informative assembly with workshop for the older children, as well as a parents meeting on this subject in the evening.

I know that many parents have concerns about what children can access outside school especially as they get older and eventually transfer to secondary school. We would always recommend that access to the internet takes place in a family room, not in a child's bedroom at this age so you are fully aware of what they are looking at. Talk to your children about safe use of the internet and ensure that they ask parental permission at this age before accessing sites such as you tube etc. We would always recommend the use of parental controls available from some internet service providers, and impress on your child that they can talk to you if they are worried about something that has happened during their internet use. Explain to your child about how to use the Report Abuse button which is available on an increasing number of websites.

Access to games on devices such as a play station or X Box should always be age appropriate.

Social networking and use of mobile phones can also raise concerns for parents and it is important to impress on your child that sending hurtful or abusive emails or texts could be serious and very hurtful. Explain the risks to your child when you first allow them to have a mobile phone , laptop or portable device with a camera or internet use. Sexting, the taking of naked or sexually provocative images and posting them on social media sites or texting them is growing amongst the under 13 age group. For further information or advice on any of the matters above visit :

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents>

<https://www.google.co.uk/safetycenter/families/legends/>

www.stopitnow.org.uk

Child Protection

In school we have procedures that all staff must follow. If we are concerned that your child may be at risk from neglect or abuse we follow the procedure in our child protection policy. This is on our website. The procedures have been written to protect all pupils. They comply with our statutory responsibilities, and are designed to support pupils, families and staff. The procedures are based on the principle that the welfare of the child is the most important consideration.

In almost all circumstances we will talk to you about our concerns, and we will also tell you if we feel we must refer our concerns to social services. We will ask your consent to make a referral, but in some circumstances we may need to make the referral against your wishes. We will only do this if we genuinely believe this is the best way to protect your child and the fact that you did not consent to the referral will be recorded.

If we think that talking to you first may in some way increase the risk to your child we will report our concerns to children's social care and take advice from them.

Child protection is a very sensitive issue and it can raise many questions and a range of strong emotions. We will do everything we can to support our children, and you can be assured that any action we take will be in the best interests of your child.

If you have any concerns about a child or you see anything please report it to school or call Rutland County Council and ask to be put through to Rutland Childrens Services Duty Team on 01572 722577.