

July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

## **The Safeguarding of Pupils at St George's School**

At St George's the welfare of all children is of paramount importance to us. We believe that working in partnership with children and their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare. Mrs Statham and the school Safeguarding team, the Governing Body and school staff to ensure that your children are kept safe at all times.

Over the course of this school year the children, staff and Governors have been involved in a number of initiatives which I wanted to let you know about.

In November we carried out our annual Pupil's Voice. We talked to groups of pupils to get their opinions and feedback about various elements of school life. The theme was Online Safety and Anti-bullying. The response we had from the children was really enlightening. Children of all ages were really aware of online safety in general and how to keep themselves and other safe whilst using tablets, phones etc and whilst interacting with other people on games.

The children demonstrated a strong sense of right and wrong which came through in their answers, and they showed they know how to treat each other with respect and how to live out the school ethos of having Christ at the Centre. And they know how to help friends who may be upset and who they can go to with problems. The children felt that school has a very positive approach to anti-bullying with one describing it as "bulletproof".

During lunchtimes the children have systems in place to enable them to express their worries or concerns to their class teacher or Mrs Statham, in fact any adult in school. Flutterby Friends have also been re-introduced at lunchtimes. They are a group of Y6 pupils who have been specially trained to help pupils resolve issues and act as mentors.

There are also supportive sessions run by trained staff members at lunchtimes which allow pupils who want to have time away or don't want to play in the playground, to have space and "Chill Out" time. The pupils know they can take time out and read or draw, or if they feel they need to they can talk to an adult about any concerns they may have.

Being able to come into school more this year has meant that we as governors, have been able to undertake more visits and spend more time in school looking at various processes.

One area in particular that we looked at was after school clubs and how they are monitored within school. We have been very lucky to have a number of different clubs running for the children to attend from football to tennis.

It is really reassuring that we can report that the safeguarding of children is a priority with after school clubs. Processes are in place to ensure that all external staff have the correct checks carried out and their information is recorded within the same school systems used for all staff.

There is always a number of staff on site until the end of Dragons Den to help if the need arises. A teacher is always present to assist with the signing out of children who attend the clubs.

It was also particularly reassuring to know that Dragons Den is also run to the same high standards and governed by school policies. The staff who work in Dragons Den work in school during the day so are known by the children.

Another area we looked at was catering. Systems are in place to ensure that there is an accurate list of children who may have specific dietary needs. The list is maintained by our office staff and communicated to the catering and lunchtime staff. This list is also made available to Dragons Den staff and is checked and updated regularly.

You may have also read on social media that the safeguarding continues until the end of the school year, in the form of a visit from our local PCSO Charlotte. Charlotte came in to school to run an anti-social behaviour workshop for years 5&6, where they learned about responsibility and consequences.

We are keen that you as parents and carers of children at the school should feel comfortable to discuss any suggestions or concerns with us. If you have a concern or suggestion, you can either speak to the class teacher, post your suggestion into the secure suggestions box located to the left of the glass screen in the school entrance or speak to myself or Mrs Statham directly. Your thoughts on key policies and related issues are always very welcome.

We will continue to monitor the safety and welfare of your children at school, and review the effectiveness of our Safeguarding policies and procedures. The school newsletters often contain important safety information so we encourage you to read these, up to date copies are also kept on the website.

We wish you a happy summer holidays and look forward to seeing you and hearing from you in the next school year.

Best wishes

Lyn Baxter  
Safeguarding Governor