

July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

The Safeguarding of Pupils at St George's School

The welfare of all children is of paramount importance to us. Mrs Statham, Mrs Clark, myself as Safeguarding Governor, the whole Governing Body and the school staff work to ensure that your children are kept safe at all times.

I wanted to take this opportunity to keep you informed about the continuing outstanding Safeguarding that takes place at St George's School. Over the course of this school year the children, staff and Governors have been involved in a number of initiatives to keep prioritising safety in school, such as anti-bullying week, on-line safety assemblies and the school virtues.

In the summer term 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 again Online Safety and Anti-bullying, to allow us to gauge the pupils understanding of new initiatives and continuous safety teaching that takes place in school. The response we had from the children was really, as always, enlightening, but this year had a different result.

As always, the older children, Key Stage 2, were fully aware of online safety in general and how to keep themselves and others safe whilst using tablets, phones etc and whilst interacting with other people on games. However, the difference that we found compared to previous years, was with the younger pupils in reception and Key Stage 1.

As in previous years, they had the knowledge and awareness of online safety and were able to tell us what the teachers had taught them, but they were unable to give any personal examples for the simple reason that they did not use tablets and other devices as much as the older children.

This shows an interesting shift and less use/dependency on devices.

Again, the children demonstrated a strong sense of right and wrong which came through in their answers. They were able to demonstrate an understanding and knowledge of the virtues: kind, curious and courageous and give examples of them in every-day life in school.

At lunchtime staff and pupils are visible by wearing a Hi-Viz waistcoat with the school virtues printed on the reverse. The children were able to give examples of when they see these virtues in action in the playground - for example if they see a pupil helping another pupil, without telling a teacher that they have done so, this shows kindness for kindness sake. One Y6 pupil said:

"We do not need assemblies or boards to let us know about the virtues as it is what we do at school already, it is part of our school values and how we should act everyday anyway. I have been at school since Reception Class and it has always been there, just under a different name."

Staff on the gate also wear the waistcoats to be visible to all.

You may also be aware of a concerning incident that occurred outside school where a man was speaking to a pupil through the railings. The pupil involved did not talk to the man and went straight to find the teacher on the gate until her parent arrived.

This was a matter which was then immediately highlighted at our Safeguarding meeting, checking that proper measures are in place at home time. It is reassuring that I can confirm that all measures are in place to keep our pupils safe:

- Firstly, there are always 2 members of staff on the gate – morning and at home time.
- Staff carry walkie-talkies when they are on the gate. This allows them to quickly communicate with the office if there is a question about whether a pupil is allowed to go home on their own, or if someone they do not recognise is collecting a pupil.
- Staff also have a list of pupils who have parental permission to leave school without an adult – something that is popular with the older pupils in preparation for going to secondary school, or pupils who live close to school.
- Staff wear waistcoats which make them easily identifiable to pupils and parents alike.
- Nursery, reception, 1 and 2 have staff on the doors and pupils are only allowed to leave once their parent/carer has been identified in the playground, by a member of staff.
- If school do not have the relevant information, then they will make any necessary phone calls to parents, to confirm details and ensure pupils safety. When information has been requested parents are always co-operative and understand the need for it to keep their child safe at school.

Thorough measures are in place. If a pupil tried to leave school with an unknown adult there are clear measures in place to prevent this happening.

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 me 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 continue to 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,

Mrs Lyn Baxter
Safeguarding Governor