

# Safeguarding Newsletter

Creswell C of E Infant & Nursery School

Spring Edition, March 2020



## Our Aims & Vision

The aim of this newsletter is to communicate key information to parents and guardians about how we continue to actively promote the safety and welfare of the children under our care and to point you in the direction of resources and information that will help you to safeguard your children at home. Our school vision is to...

*'Celebrate life in all its fullness, ensuring that every child achieves the very best they can in their time with us, in a happy, safe and exciting environment.'*

In our most recent OFSTED Inspection, Safeguarding at our school was described as being 'effective'. However, we are always striving to provide even better support for our pupils and families and hope that you will continue to work with us to keep our children happy and safe.

## Our Staff

If you have any concerns about a child, please do not hesitate to contact one of our Safeguarding Team who are listed below for your information:

Mrs A Dodd	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs E Furness	Safeguarding Deputy & Head of School Care
Miss O Clegg	Safeguarding Assistant
Mrs S Wilmot	Health & Safety Officer
Mrs S Dayson	Governor for Safeguarding & Anti-Bullying

☎ Alternatively, please ring the school office for help or advice on: **01909 721 471**

## Attendance & Dojo Points



In January, we introduced the 'Class Dojo' reward system throughout the school. Part of this system enables us to reward children with points for arriving at school on time. Your child can save up points to earn prizes of their choice. Arriving on time each day can help your child to accumulate points more quickly and reach their goals!

We are committed to improving attendance figures but can only do this in partnership with parents and guardians. You can help us to achieve this by:

- ◆ arriving at school on time
- ◆ not taking your child out of school during term time for holidays or other events
- ◆ ensuring that the office have copies of any documentation for necessary medical appointments

Letters will be sent out to the parents of children with attendance levels of below 90% and you will be invited to a meeting to discuss how we can help you to improve your child's attendance at school.

If you require more information on how to access the Class Dojo app, please speak to your child's Class Teacher or Key Worker, who will be happy to help you.



## Friendships

It is **NEVER** ok to bully another person and we always take action when we feel children may be being targeted.

Rough play resulting in injury, falling out with friends, leaving people out of group play or saying unkind words to each other are not ideal behaviours at school and our staff deal with these incidents on a daily basis. However, this is not bullying.

We find it useful to think about the



**STOP** Several Times On Purpose

We talk about the difference between accidents, friendship issues and bullying, but if you suspect your child is being bullied, encourage them to:

**STOP** Start Telling Other People

Please come and speak to a member of staff if you have any concerns regarding bullying.

## General Safety



## Questions...

We would like to remind all of our parents about the safety of children on our site.

You can help to keep our children safe by:

- ◆ walking to school when possible
- ◆ if a car is absolutely essential, parking in the free Spar car park or other safe parking place and walk the short distance up the hill
- ◆ walking on the designated path and not on the road with your child
- ◆ holding the hands of younger children
- ◆ crossing the local roads at the designated crossing points (zebra crossing or with crossing patrol supervisors)
- ◆ talking to your child about road safety
- ◆ sharing age-appropriate online resources with your children to help them understand more about road safety:

[www.think.gov.uk/resource/crossing-roads](http://www.think.gov.uk/resource/crossing-roads)

[www.think.gov.uk/resource/safer-journeys-anthem](http://www.think.gov.uk/resource/safer-journeys-anthem)

- ◆ not smoking or vaping on school property
- ◆ not bringing dogs on to school property or letting them foul on pavements where children walk
- ◆ not dropping litter and encouraging your child to do the same (there is a song on You Tube called 'What if Everybody Did It?' which may be helpful)

We take Safeguarding very seriously. Sometimes we may have to ask questions to see if you or your child need help. Please do not be offended; this is an important part of our job. We have a duty of care for your child and we follow strict policies and procedures to help keep everyone safe.

### We may need to ask you questions if:

- ◆ your child has a bruise /mark and you forgot to let us know
- ◆ your child tells us something that we may need to ask you a bit more about
- ◆ your child's behaviour or appearance changes suddenly
- ◆ you are consistently late or your child's school attendance is poor or suddenly changes
- ◆ we think that you may need our support

### How can you help us?

- ◆ always let us know if your child has had an accident at home that has caused a mark or bruise
- ◆ if there are changes at home which mean your child's behaviour/appearance changes, please come and speak to us
- ◆ if you are struggling and need help, please ask!

## How do we keep your children safe?



In our newsletters, we give advice about how you can safeguard your child at home, but some of you may not know the different ways the school works hard to keep your children safe in school. Here are just a few of things we do!

- ◆ a new electronic signing in system for staff, parents and visitors entering and leaving the school
- ◆ a new electronic system used by all staff to record concerns, behaviour and attendance and track these over time
- ◆ all staff have background checks with the DBS to ensure they are suitable to work with children
- ◆ all staff trained in Safeguarding including lunchtime supervisors, kitchen staff and Governors
- ◆ robust Safeguarding policies are in place, are reviewed regularly and are approved by the Governing body
- ◆ gates are only opened just before drop-off and collection time to ensure maximum site security
- ◆ different collection points for children at the end of the day to ensure teachers can dismiss safely
- ◆ a clear set of school rules are in place for children to follow, alongside rewards and sanctions
- ◆ children are taught about how to keep themselves safe; we have special events on this e.g. NSPCC Pants are Private
- ◆ we have a strong safeguarding team including our school Head of Care (Mrs Furness) who also helps with pastoral issues
- ◆ we adhere to staff: child ratios to ensure that children are supervised appropriately throughout the day
- ◆ strong links with local services to ensure that Early Help can be put in place if we have concerns about your child

If you think we could do more, if you have any concerns or if you would like to know more about any aspect of our school Safeguarding, please speak to a member of the team (details of which can be found on the front page of this newsletter).

Good online safety is a key way we can protect our children from harm and abuse. Here are some top tips to help at home:

1. **Know the age restrictions** for the games, apps or websites your children are using; talk to your child about what they have been playing on; make time to check their devices at regular intervals to ensure they are keeping themselves safe
2. **Be mindful that if you have got older children in the house**, younger children may be exposed to unsuitable content unintentionally; put rules in place to make sure this doesn't happen
3. **Stay positive!** Having open and honest talks with your child about online safety will build up trust and understanding, so that if there is ever a problem, your child will feel more comfortable coming to speak to you about it and asking for help
4. **Keep yourself up-to-date** with the latest trends on social media and gaming platforms so that you are aware of the potential dangers facing your child when they are online; knowledge is power

The following websites may help you:

[beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en\\_uk/](http://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en_uk/) An interactive website designed for teachers, parents and children to highlight the importance of online safety; an online internet pledge can be downloaded from this website which can be signed by all members of the household. Children can also play games to help them to understand the hidden dangers of the online world.

[www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org) Advice and practical guides for making internet usage safer

[www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety) Advice on setting up parental controls

[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com) Advice and tips about e-safety

[www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk) Quickly search to find out about apps, websites or programmes your child is using



If in doubt CEOP! [www.ceop.police.uk/safetycentre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safetycentre)

If you are concerned about child exploitation or your child sees anything disturbing online, the above website is run by the Child Exploitation & Online Protection team (CEOP). It is a law enforcement agency designed to keep children and young people safe from online exploitation. To report concerns or find out whether you should make a report, visit this website.



## Early Help Assessment

Information about the Early Help Assessment can now be found on the school website (click on the Safeguarding tab and then click on Early Help Assessment). Early help is about agencies working together to intervene at the right time with the right level of service to support the needs of families and young people. It aims to prevent or reduce the need for specialist interventions such as child protection and intensive physical and mental health services further down the line.

All the agencies that work alongside Creswell Infant School: hospitals, other schools, police, education, social care, voluntary groups and others - are committed to improving the lives of children and young people in our Community. By working together and sharing information, we can ensure the best outcomes for all our children so that, whatever their background or circumstances, they'll have the support they need to achieve their full potential in life.



## Feedback

We are always looking to improve our communication with parents and would love to hear your feedback on our Safeguarding newsletters. If we have not covered an issue that you feel strongly about, or if you have come across some useful websites or resources, please let one of the Safeguarding staff know so that we can include it in the next edition. Your safety and that of your children are always important to us!

