



## ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

### Safeguarding Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Spring term 1 (2023)

#### St George's Safeguarding Team

Our Safeguarding Team is available to any student, parent or school staff member to discuss and report any safeguarding concerns.

**Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Jill Farndale**

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr Tom Abbott**

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Hayley Shears**



#### *Safeguarding and our Curriculum*

As stated in *'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022'*, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's responsibility**. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play.

In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should make sure their approach is child centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

Here at St George's, we believe that it is in the best interests for our children to have opportunities to learn how to stay safe both in and outside of school. Therefore, safeguarding themes are weaved into lessons, across the wider curriculum, into assemblies and displayed as part of everyday life within our school.

Here are just a few examples of ways we teach safeguarding at St George's School:

- Online safety lessons – each unit of work begins with an online safety session as well as sessions throughout the term.
- Healthy eating focus in science and technology.
- Buddying systems.
- School values system.
- SCARF PSHE / RSHE programmes delivered across the whole school, with assemblies focusing on themes and school Christian values.
- Links with the NSPCC ( 'Speak Out / Stay Safe' visits).
- Bikeability training (Year 5 and 6).
- Local community representatives to support the curriculum such as Police / Fire Safety / Nurses / Paramedics etc.
- Mental Health in School Partnership with regular visits from our school linked practitioner
- Themed safety activities such as bonfire night, life saving, first aid.
- Transition work from pre-school settings to Reception and Year 6 to Year 7.
- We encourage vulnerable children to participate in after school clubs, and will help with funding as appropriate.
- We mark anti bullying week every November and encourage children to contribute towards school policy and procedures regarding anti bullying.
- Books and the library: many books used across the curriculum areas will have themes covering tolerance, mutual respect and democracy.
- Core values are used to promote rights and responsibilities. Teachers model these values and hold high expectations around the children displaying them when in school.
- Our School Council gives the opportunity to learn about different models of democracy and how to ensure we have a safe and productive environment in our school.
- SCARF PSHE and Religious Education lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Children have the opportunity to learn about and visit places of worship that are important to different to faiths.

## Spotlight on: Discrimination

Discrimination is “treating someone unfairly because of who they are.” (Citizens Advice, 2022).

This means that a person is being treated differently or is put at a disadvantage because of someone else’s opinions or judgements of them.

By law, there are 9 characteristics that are protected from discrimination under the Equality Act 2010:

- Age
- Disability
- Religion/Belief
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage/Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy/Maternity
- Race/Ethnicity
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

If someone is targeted or treated unfairly because of one or more of these characteristics, then they are being unlawfully discriminated against. This also includes someone being treated differently because another person thinks that they belong to a group with a protected characteristic, whether it’s true or not.

At St George’s we celebrate diversity and teach the importance of this to the children. We do not tolerate discrimination in any form and it will always be challenged. When children use discriminatory language, we always follow this up with the child and the parent/carer and educate the child on why this language is not acceptable.



## Kiddle

Child friendly search engines help us to ensure that children are using the internet in a safe way. **Kiddle.co** is a visual search engine for children powered by Google which offers a safe web, image and video search. You can access it here [www.kiddle.co](http://www.kiddle.co) We need to be aware that those who wish children harm will find their way round the safeguards included in these search engines, so while these search engines may make searching safer for children they are not a replacement for online safety filters. UK Safer Internet Centre provides excellent independent advice on setting up internet filters at home.



<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk>

### Staying safe online

Many children will have received devices over the Christmas period. We strongly advise that parent controls are set up on their devices before the children are allowed to use them. Safer Internet have lots of information for parents about setting up parental controls. They also recommend having open and honest conversations with children about their online use. <https://saferinternet.org.uk/online-issue/parental-controls>

**Social Media Age Restrictions** As a result of Christmas, some children may have received new gadgets with social media accounts as part of these. It is vital that there are adequate security settings on any technology your child is using. Just a reminder of the age restrictions for some popular apps:



### Contact Details

Are your contact details up to date? Do we have more than one emergency contact?

If you change your home phone, address, email, or mobile number, please let the school know, so that we have the most up-to-date contact details.

Safeguarding concerns can present themselves when we are unable to get hold of a parent or carer, especially during an emergency.

**Shout** If you need someone to anonymously talk to, Shout can be there for you. You can text 'Shout' for free to 85257 at any time of the day or night for support. Your messages are confidential and can be a great source of support during challenging times, especially in the middle of the night. In support of the Shout service and other mental health charities, footballer Harry Kane is helping to normalise conversations around mental health, promote positive habits that support mental wellbeing and tackle the stigma surrounding the subject. Harry will use his position to encourage others to look after their mental health, be their best and know that it is ok to ask for help.

