

Safeguarding Newsletter

Summer 2023



WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSOs).

If a child is in **immediate danger**, call the **POLICE on 999**

The Safeguarding Team oversee and co-ordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe.

They regularly attend training to ensure their skills and knowledge are up-to-date.

Safeguarding Team:



Mrs. Linley (DSL) Mrs. Dykes (DSO) Miss Dorsett (DSO)

All can be contacted via the office or by telephone on:

0121 357 9892

Alternatively, to make a referral directly to children's social care you can call Birmingham Children's Trust using the contact details below.



Monday to Thursday: 8:45am to 5:15pm
Friday: 8:45am to 4:15pm

Telephone: 0121 303 1888

**Emergency out-of-hours
Telephone: 0121 675 4806**

Dear Parents and Carers,

When your child returns to school on Tuesday 5th September, we will be introducing new expectations on behaviour and attendance. We will provide more information on behaviour and attendance with you in the Autumn term but for now, thank you for your ongoing support, it is much appreciated by all of the staff at St. Mark's.

Please take a moment to read this term's safeguarding newsletter as it contains contextual safeguarding information that will support you and your child.

Many thanks, Mrs. Linley

Supporting your child with Transition?

Just like adults, children cope with changes and transitions in different ways. Some people breeze through with excitement and others feel anxious and need more support. At St. Mark's, we are very mindful of these differing needs so we plan our transitions to secondary schools and new classes carefully and with a great deal of thought. Mrs. Dykes has been in touch with a number of families of children who would benefit from a visit to school on Monday 4th September (we look forward to seeing those children for a brief visit then!) Here are some tips for supporting your child with transition:

1. Be positive! – How you react to change will strongly influence your child and if you feel anxious, so will they.
2. Focus on the constants for your child, the things that will be the same. Those in EYFS through to Y5 will be moving class with their peers so their friends will still be with them, they will still see familiar adults and many routines will be the same.
3. Look at our curriculum information on the school website to check out the topics they will be covering in their new year group to help them feel excited about the year ahead.
4. Listen to any concerns that are forthcoming but don't go looking for them – remember that most children will be excited about the move and are more than ready for it.

Summer water safety



Canal &
River Trust
Making life better by water



On a hot day, it might seem like a great idea to cool down in open water. However, swimming is prohibited in our canals and rivers. There are too many risks that you can't see hidden below the surface, and lots of other ways you can cool down with two feet on the towpath.

This Summer, please speak to your children about staying safe near open water because standing too close to the edge can be dangerous. The Canal and River Trust teach the message to:

**Always remember to stay SAFE near water -
Stay Away From the Edge.**

It's never too early to start talking to your children about staying safe near water.

Talk to your kids when you're out and about near water, whether you're walking or cycling, out on a trip to feed the ducks or look at the boats.

Repeating safety messages regularly will help young children remember what to do.



Vaping amongst Children

The supply of disposable vapes has exploded over recent months. The child-appealing design of the packaging and the fruity flavours have made vaping more appealing to children. What is more, the knock-on effect of the popularity of vaping amongst children is that perpetrators of Child Sexual or Criminal Exploitation and abuse are giving vapes to individuals as part of their grooming tactics. If you know of any local businesses selling vapes to underage children, please report this to the police so that it can be shared with the regional intelligence unit.

How many children use vapes in the UK?

In 2023 **20.5% of children had tried vaping**, up from 15.8% in 2022 and 13.9% in 2020 before the first COVID lockdown. The majority had only vaped once or twice (11.6%), while 7.6% were currently vaping (3.9% less than once a week, 3.6% more than once a week) and the remainder (1.3% in 2023) saying they no longer vape. (<https://ash.org.uk>)