



St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Fowler Road, Islington, London N1 2EP

**Keeping
Children Safe**

'Believe and Achieve'

Keeping Children Safe

Friday 20th November 2015

Dear Parent and Carers,

Following the recent updates regarding secure collection arrangements. We would like to update you about how the school aims to work in partnership, to support children and promote their well-being.

Please visit our school website www.stmarys.islington.sch.uk to read further information about how we keep children safe at St Mary's.

Working in partnership with parents and carers

The Governing Body and staff of the school are committed to creating and maintaining a culture of openness and honesty and strive at all times to work in partnership with parents and carers. We believe that this is in the best interests of children and their families. Only by developing co-operative working relationships within which parents and carers feel respected will we be able to work holistically with children.

Parents and carers will be given access to our child protection policy and a summary of it will be included in the literature given to those whose children are new to the school. We believe it is important that parents and carers are aware of our statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and that we will where necessary share concerns about children with Children's Social Care.

Wherever possible we will aim to discuss concerns about children with their parents or carers and inform them if we intend to make a referral to the Children's Services Contact Team.

There may be rare instances however, when we judge that it is not appropriate to speak to a parent or carer before contacting the Children's Services Contact Team. This would happen when the designated members of staff for child protection, judges that a child's well being will be imperilled if the parent or carer is aware that a referral is to be made.

Supporting Children

We recognise that a child who is abused or neglected may find it difficult to develop and maintain a sense of self worth. We recognise that children may feel helpless and humiliated and may blame themselves for what has or is happening to them. Our school may provide a vital source of stability in the lives of children who have been abused or are at risk of harm.

We recognise that the behaviour of a child in these circumstances may range from that which is perceived to be 'normal' to aggressive or withdrawn.

We aim to support the children in our school by:

- Encouraging a sense of self worth and assertiveness whilst not condoning bullying and aggression. Bullying in itself may result in the threshold of significant harm being met and we take seriously our responsibility to challenge bullying behaviours in accordance with our anti-bullying policy;
- Promoting a caring and safe environment within the school
- Providing opportunities starting from the Foundation Stage and PSHE curricula for children to learn strategies to protect themselves, ask for help and support, gain confidence in standing up for their rights and valuing and respecting others.
- Working in partnership with other services involved in safeguarding children and notifying Children's Social Care as soon as there are significant concerns about a child

Promoting the wellbeing of children

The School will promote the well being of all its pupils as per the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Well-being is defined in the Children Act 2004 in terms of:

- physical and mental health and emotional well-being;
- protection from harm and neglect;
- education, training and recreation;
- the contribution children make to society;
- social and economic well-being.

Every Child Matters is a set of reforms supported by the Children Act 2004. The school's aim is for every child, whatever their background or circumstances, to have the support they need to:

- be healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic well-being.

The school believes in involving children and young people in this process.

With kind regards,

Miss Genevieve Prayag and Mrs Laura Mayende

Designated Members of Staff for Child Protection