

# Safeguarding Newsletter



Autumn 2018 edition

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the first 'Safeguarding Newsletter' of the new academic year at St Francis Catholic Primary School. I will be sending the newsletter out termly and keeping you informed of any issues, debates or updates. It will hopefully be a reminder of who you can go to if there is a problem and will be a good source of information in how we are keeping your child/ren safe and how you can keep them safe too. If there are any concerns, or if you are interested in learning more about a particular issue, please let me know and we will feature information in the next newsletter.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Mrs Cox

## What Parents Must Do:

Parents are the most important people to keep their children safe. You should always

- \*Feel confident to raise concerns about your child.
  - \*Talk to school if you need help or support.
- Read the school policies about safety issues.
- \*Let school know if your child has a medical condition.
  - \*Let school know if you have any court orders relating to the safety of your child.
  - \*Let school know if there is a change in your circumstances such as a house move, a new contact number, a change of name, a change of parental responsibility.
  - \*Let us know who will be dropping off or collecting your child and two other emergency contact names and numbers. You must inform school of any changes to agreed arrangements.
  - \*Let school know if your child is going to be absent and the reasons why.

## What School Must Do:

A child should be able to go to school and feel safe so that they can achieve their very best.

- \*Anybody who works or volunteers at St Francis will be checked by the Police (vetted) to make sure they are safe to work with children and then trained to identify child abuse and what to do if they are concerned.
- \*The school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs D Cox, who has had extra training to know what to do when a concern is brought to her.
- \*We will always listen to you and work closely with you if we are concerned about your child but, sometimes, we may not be able to discuss our concern and a referral may have to be made to Children's Services or the Police. The school has a Child Protection Policy which tells you more about this and this is available on our school website.
- \*We will help your child to learn about keeping themselves safe. Lessons can include healthy eating, anti-bullying, e-safety, road safety, healthy relationships, drug and alcohol awareness. As part of the lessons your child will be told what to do if they are worried or concerned about their safety.



**Mrs Dawn Cox**

Designated  
Safeguarding  
Lead (DSL)  
SPOC

Deputy Headteacher



**Miss Dawn  
Richards**

Deputy DSL

Headteacher



**Mr Alex  
Turner**

Deputy DSL

SLT/Assistant  
Headteacher



**Mrs Michelle  
Windridge**

Deputy DSL

SLT/EYFS Lead



**Mr Brian  
Mulligan**

Deputy DSL

SLT



**Mrs Allison  
Wright**

Deputy DSL

SLT/SENDCo

# Mental Health Awareness

It's never too early or too late to start thinking about children's mental health, and how as adults, we have a hugely important role in helping them to develop their ability to cope with life's challenges as they grow. Lots of general advice and support can be found online such as:

**YoungMinds:** YoungMinds offers free confidential online and telephone support to anyone worried about the emotional and mental wellbeing of a child or young person up to the age of 25. Call the free parents' helpline on 0808 802 5544 from 9.30am-4pm, Monday to Friday or email [parents@youngminds.org.uk](mailto:parents@youngminds.org.uk) and YoungMinds will respond to your query within three working days.

**YOUNGMINDS**

**MindEd:** MindEd is an online e-portal offering free, simple advice to help adults identify, understand and support children and young people with mental health issues. Although it is aimed at professionals, parents and carers may also find the information helpful. [www.minded.org.uk](http://www.minded.org.uk)



Do you know what your child is doing online?  
Are you routinely talking to your child and checking  
what internet sites they are accessing?

It is very important to monitor and teach your child some key internet safety rules (and to role model them as adults helps)...

- 1) Don't post any personal information online—e.g. your address, email address or mobile number
- 2) Think carefully before posting pictures or videos of yourself. Once you've put a picture of yourself online most people can see it—is it a photo you would want everyone to see?
- 3) Keep your privacy settings as high as possible (parents can help you)
- 4) Never give out your passwords (except to your parents if they want to check your accounts to keep you safe)
- 5) Don't befriend people you don't know.
- 6) Don't meet up with people you've met online. Speak to your parent or carer about people suggesting you do.
- 7) Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are—adults sometimes pretend to be children to make friends with you online.
- 8) Think carefully about what you say before you post something online Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms.
- 9) Respect other people's views, even if you don't agree with someone else's views doesn't mean you need to be rude— sometimes it is better not to comment than to get into an argument.
- 10) Use parental safety software/apps to block inappropriate internet use and monitor your children's online activity.
- 11) Ensure that the online games your child wants to play are appropriate to their age.
- 12) If you see something online that makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried: leave the website and tell a trusted adult immediately. Keep your webcam covered up when not in use.

**NSPCC**   
**HELPLINE**  
**0808 800 5000**  
[help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)