



Tel: 0121-770 3168
Fax: 0121-778 0911
@StAnthonysSch
E Mail: 84office@st-anthonys.solihull.sch.uk
Head Teacher: Mr C. Flaherty

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School
Fordbridge Road,
Kingshurst,
Birmingham
B37 6LW

Dear Parents

I want to share some important information with you so that you, as parents, can support school by discussing St Anthony's to SAFEGUARDING with your children. St Anthony's recognises its legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of its students under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002. You know your child better than anyone and you will know when to discuss these issues and in how much detail. Please have these conversations as children who know that they have these rights are more able to keep themselves safe.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is what adults do to try and ensure the safety and well-being of all the children who come to our school. School also uses this word to describe the policies and procedures in place to ensure that all children are adequately looked after and protected from harm.

PROTECTING CHILDREN

Here are some examples of when school and parents think a child needs protecting:-

- An adult hitting, hurting or shaking a child;
- A child not given enough food or clothing;
- When a child is threatened by an adult or made to feel bad about themselves, unwanted or worthless;
- When children are distressed by witnessing or hearing some-one being abused or treated badly such as domestic violence;
- If a child is scared to go home;
- A child put in danger by the misuse of alcohol or drugs by an adult;
- An adult asking to see or touching you on the parts of your body covered by your underwear. In some situations this is necessary such as bath time OR when you visit the doctor or hospital and doctors or nurses may need to see you and touch you – BUT they should explain why AND ask first.

What happens at St Anthony's if school is worried about a child?

The concern is discussed with the child and, as far as possible, we will try and ensure that the child understands why school is getting involved and help them feel that it is OK to share concerns and that they will be believed.

The Designated Members of Staff at St Anthony's are Mr Flaherty and Miss Watkins. A child can share their worries with any member of staff at school and they will be listened to. If they feel that they cannot tell an adult at school, then they can write it down, making sure their name is on the note, and put it into the worry box in the Den.

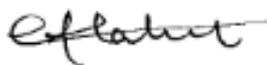
All staff have a responsibility to protect children and share concerns.

Depending on the concern and what is in the best interest of the child, a decision will be made as to what to do next.

Some worries might result in parents and carers being asked into school to discuss concerns. Other concerns may need the help of other outside agencies, such as CSAW's – our Education Welfare provider.

In some circumstances school may feel that it would be helpful for a family to participate in meetings with external agencies to try to sort out what is best for the child and their family. These meetings involve parents and professionals working together to prevent further harm or distress for a child, and to resolve any situation that is causing (or has a risk of) harm to a child.

Some concerns are dealt with by Mr Flaherty or Miss Watkins asking advice from the Duty Referral Team from Children's Service. Children's Services may ask school to make a referral (giving them more information) which is statutory – this means that school has a legal obligation to provide information to professional agencies such as social worker, doctors and the police. The privacy of your family will always be respected and information may be shared with others if it can help to ensure a child is safe and protected BUT we will not keep a secret if we think will mean you are at risk of harm. Sometimes a child might be asked to talk to a social worker or police officers that have been specially trained to help children share their worries. There is nothing so awful that you cannot talk about it to someone you trust at school.



Mr C Flaherty, Head Teacher

