

# Safeguarding Newsletter

## Autumn 2024



### 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)



Mr. Linford (DSO)



Mrs. M. Hussain  
Attendance Officer

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

**0121 357 9892**

Dear Parents and Carers,



BE **READY**



BE **RESPECTFUL**



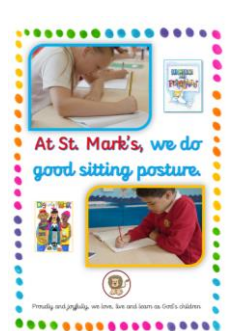
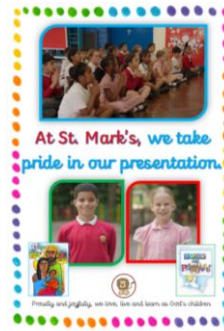
BE **SAFE**

Our school expectations as stated above are what we pride ourselves on here at St. Mark's. We expect every child to:

- be ready to learn and fulfil their potential
- be respectful to everyone they encounter
- be safe – in school and out of school

This term, we also introduced 'The St. Mark's Way' which is the way we behave in our school. This is what we expect to see on a daily basis and they are underpinned by our Catholic Social Teaching principles.

### The St. Mark's Way...



Have a wonderful Christmas holiday – stay safe!

**Mrs. Linley and the St. Mark's Family**



*Proudly and joyfully, we love, live and learn as God's children.*



**BIRMINGHAM  
CHILDREN'S TRUST**

Alternatively, if you are concerned about a child out-of-school hours, you can call Birmingham Children's Trust using the contact details below:

**Monday to Thursday:** 8:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

**Friday:** 8:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

**Telephone:** 0121 303 1888

**Emergency out-of-hours**

**Telephone:** 0121 675 4806

Let's keep this  
going for all the people  
who are going through  
a tough time.

For anyone who needs some  
support right now. ❤️

CALM - 0800585858  
Mind - 03001233393  
No Panic - 08449674848  
Bereavement - 08088081677  
PAPYRUS - 08000684141  
Samaritans - 116 123  
SHOUT - Text SHOUT to 85258  
Abuse - 0808 2000 247  
Refuge - 020 7395 7700

Stay safe this Christmas.



stay safe this Christmas

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Samaritans - 116 123

### Did you know that...

we post Safeguarding advice on the School Story page of Class Dojo every week during the school term?

These are the topics that have been covered this term:

- 9 Top Tips on children's devices
- 12 Social Media Online Safety Tips for ch
- Building Cyber Resilience at home
- Group Chats
- Managing Device Stress and Anxiety
- Managing Screen Time
- Nintendo Switch
- Online Bullying
- Online Grooming
- Pop-up ads
- Setting boundaries around Gaming
- Snapchat
- WhatsApp



**ClassDojo**



Compass is a non-profit charity which works with children from the age of 5 years old, providing early support with mental health and emotional well-being through 1:1 support or small group work.

This term, our **Guardian Angels** worked with Compass to plan activities and for the start of anti-bullying week.

For more information about the service Compass Birmingham provides, you can visit the website by following this link:

[Compass Birmingham MHST - Compass](#)

or you can speak to Miss Stewart.



During anti-bullying week, our Guardian Angels planned and delivered an assembly with the staff from COMPASS on how we must choose respect and what respect looks like at St. Mark's. Our anti-bullying motto is:

***'LEND A HAND, TAKE A STAND, STOP BULLYING NOW!'***

Bullying can take many forms such as cyberbullying, physical bullying and/or emotional bullying.

We teach our children to be respectful and we encourage our children to speak to a member of staff should they become concerned about bullying at St. Mark's.



Children can do this in person and also in confidence through emailing: [report@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:report@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk) which the DSLs in school will pick up.



*Posted originally on Class Dojo on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024*

For those of you who may have children with **peanut allergies**, please read the recent guidance from Allergy UK:

<https://www.allergyuk.org/news/peanut-statement/>

It states that some products containing mustard powder may contain peanuts. The Food Standards Agency has listed products it is recalling (please check as some of these products can be purchased in your local supermarket).

***No food products in our school kitchen are listed and no food contains mustard powder.***

We welcome community police officers regularly into school as it is important to develop the children's understanding of the role the police play in helping to keep our local community safe.

PC Malley visited our school on the 28<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the importance of the role the police play in upholding our protected characteristics with our Y6 children.

They were respectful and really understood the importance of this and how it links to our values.



Reception Class had a visit from PC Malley on the 28<sup>th</sup> November. The children learnt how they can keep themselves safe.





Mrs. Hussain and Mrs. Linley monitor punctuality and attendance on a regular basis in school.

We identify trends and issues and ensure that we take early action to prevent an issue becoming worse.

This term, we have sent letters to **9** families whereby we have identified persistent punctuality issues. Any families needing further support to improve punctuality need to arrange a meeting with Mrs. Linley.

Please contact her directly via Class Dojo messaging.

As a school we aim to support our parents with attendance and punctuality.

Our current attendance figure for this point in the year is: **94.8%**

Our whole school target for attendance is **97%** for the year.

Senior leaders have conducted **7** unannounced home visits this term. Please communicate with school staff if you require further support to ensure your child's attendance is the best it can be.

## Punctuality

The school gates open at 8.30am and close at 8.45am. Lessons start at 8.55am so children need to be in class before this time to ensure they are well prepared to start their morning lesson. Any child arriving after 8.45am will need to be signed in by a parent on the signage system and your child will receive a late mark.

### Being on time is a good thing

- Gets the day off to a good start with everyone in a positive frame of mind.
- Helps your child make the most of their learning and sets positive patterns for the future.
- Helps children develop a sense of responsibility both for themselves and for others
- Helps your child make and keep friends.
- Improves self-confidence.

### The impact of being late

- Gets the day off to a bad start and can put you in a mood.
- Can be embarrassing
- May damage your child's confidence.
- Children miss vital information at the start of the day.
- Disrupts the learning.

## Procedures on Reporting a Child's Absence

If your child is ill and unable to attend school, please contact the school office on 0121 357 9892 before 8.30am. The school answering machine will pick your message up and please following the instructions for reporting your child's absence. A phone call needs to be made to the school office every day that your child is absent from school.

If we have not heard from a parent by 10.00am as to why their child is absent from school, Mrs. Hussain will ring all of the contact numbers registered for that child until contact is made.