

ST OSBURG'S SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

SUMMER TERM

Welcome to our Summer Term Newsletter.

Exploitation

With the long summer holiday approaching we would like to remind parents of known areas within the city where children are targeted for exploitation purposes. The current 'hotspots' for exploitation are: **Transport museum, The Burges, Signet Square, Nauls Mill Park, Jardine Crescent, Lady Herbert's Garden & Pool Meadow**. Please regularly ask your children about where they are playing and who with. Discuss strategies they could use to safely remove themselves from any potential risky situations.



Our Safeguarding Team

Mrs Rynott

Headteacher/DSL

Mrs Bardell

Assistant

Headteacher/DDSL

Mrs McDevitt

Assistant

Headteacher/DDSL

Mrs Fowler

Pastoral Manager/DSL

Miss Carey

Pastoral Manager/DSL

Safeguarding Support During the Holidays



If a child is in immediate danger or left alone, you should contact the:

Police 101 or 999.

Coventry's Multi-Agency

Safeguarding Hub: 024 76788555

EDT (Out of hours Social Care): 024 76832222 (State that you have concerns about a child and want to speak to Children's Social Care).

CAMHS (Coventry): 02476 961 366

CAMHS (Nuneaton): 02476 641 799

Safe To Talk:

<https://www.safetotalk.org.uk/> or

0800 111 4998

Safeguarding Support continued...

Childline: 0800 1111

MIND (Coventry Wellbeing Hub): 024 76552847

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

NSPCC FGM Helpline: 0800 028 3550

Foodbank:

<https://coventry.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/> or contact your local Family Hub at <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/family-hubs/family-hubs-families-carers>

The **school safeguarding team** can be contacted by emailing

safeguarding@st-osburgs.coventry.sch.uk



Tips for Keeping your child safe whilst on Holiday



Discuss with your child the basic safety rules: not talking to strangers, not to wander off and what to do if they get lost.

Whenever you're in a large, crowded area, you try to pick a landmark for the family to meet at if anyone finds themselves separated from the rest of the family. Pick something large, distinctive and easy to find.

Talk to your child about safe adults to approach if they do get lost. A person with a child or children is always a good recommendation or a person who works in a shop. It might be useful to take a photo of your child each morning to have an up to date picture of what they are wearing.

Use Air tags to track your child/children.

Child proof your accommodation check windows, balconies etc for hazards.

Sun cream, hats and water are essentials.



Are your contact details up to date?



We have found contacting some parents difficult when their child has become unwell during school. This causes upset and worry to the child as they are already feeling quite vulnerable due to illness. If you move house or change your phone/email/mobile number, please let the office know, so that we have the most up to-date contact details.

ST OSBURG'S

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Group Chats

Group chats are often viewed as harmless, but they can expose children to risks parents might not anticipate. These groups can quickly become environments where negative behaviours thrive without adult supervision. Primary school aged children, still developing social and emotional maturity, may struggle with the often unfiltered nature of these chats. Many parents are unaware of what can occur in group chats.



Unfortunately, children can be exposed to:

- Unkind behaviour: teasing, exclusion and, bullying can occur more easily behind a screen.
- Inappropriate content: children may encounter or share inappropriate language, images, videos or other harmful content.
- Peer pressure: children may feel pressured to participate in conversations they are uncomfortable with.
- Over use and distraction: constant notifications can interfere with sleep, homework and family time.

Group Chats continued...

How can parents help?

As a parent, you can monitor your child's use of group chats:



- Have open conversations: talk to your child about the importance of kindness, respect and the impact of their words online.
- Set boundaries: establish rules around screen time and appropriate online behaviour.
- Monitor group chats: regularly check the content of your child's chats and discuss any concerning messages.
- Teach privacy awareness: encourage your child to think before sharing personal information or images.
- Promote reporting: let your child know they can come to you if they feel uncomfortable or witness inappropriate behaviour.
- Use parental controls: utilise built-in tools on devices and apps to limit access and monitor usage.

FGM (Female Genital Mutilation)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or any other injury to the female genital organs for cultural, non-medical reasons. FGM has been categorised into four types, with varying severity. Each type causes lasting damage and painful complications in adulthood. Despite being illegal here, all of these forms of FGM have been found in the UK. It can also be known as 'female genital cutting' or female circumcision. It's often performed by someone with no medical training, using instruments such as knives, scalpels, scissors, glass or razor blades. Children are rarely given anaesthetic and are often forcibly restrained. It's used to control female sexuality and can cause long-lasting damage to physical and emotional health. Carryout such treatment is punishable in the UK regardless of it taking place here or overseas. If you feel your child is at risk or you are feeling under pressure to allow this to happen and would like support, please speak to Mrs Fowler or Miss Carey.

If you require immediate intervention please contact the police on 999 and the MASH on 02476788555.



Our Safeguarding Team

Mrs Rynott

Headteacher/DSL

Mrs Bardell

Assistant

Headteacher/DDSL

Mrs McDevitt

Assistant

Headteacher/DDSL

Mrs Fowler

Pastoral Manager/DSL

Miss Carey

Pastoral Manager/DSL

Physical Punishment



Parents have the right to make choices about reasonable punishments, but there is a fine line between "reasonable chastisement" and assault which is a criminal offence. The law in the UK states a smack might be considered to be reasonable chastisement if it is open-handed and not with a fist or any kind of implement. We would however, always recommend an alternative way when managing behaviour at home. In the event of a disclosure being made it may not always be possible to discuss it with a parent immediately and might trigger a referral to children's services. If you feel you and your family would like some support with behaviour management strategies please pop in so we can chat a little more.