

16th September 2024

Important Safeguarding Updates and Guidance for Parents

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to share some important updates regarding safeguarding within our school community.

Enhanced Security Measures Following Recent Tragedies

Considering the deeply distressing events over the summer, particularly the tragic deaths of children in Southport, we have made the decision to enhance our security measures. From now on, the school gates will be locked promptly at 9:00 am and again at 3:40 pm, at the start and end of the school day, respectively.

We will also be conducting our annual lockdown drill (like our fire drill) during the second half of the autumn term, to ensure that both children and staff are familiar with the necessary procedures. We will prepare the children and inform parents and carers of the week the lockdown drill will occur.

We kindly ask parents not to drop off forgotten items like lunchboxes, water bottles, or PE kits once the school day has started, as we can provide these if needed. **Essential items such as medication, prescription glasses, or hearing aids are welcome at the office.** Lost property is available on Fridays after school. This helps our office staff manage their many duties, including communications, admissions, attendance, and finance. Due to budget constraints, we no longer have staff to deliver forgotten items or assist with lost property searches.

Safeguarding Considerations for Hiring Private Tutors

Another important topic I'd like to address is the appointment of private tutors. While tutoring can be beneficial for children, it's important to be aware that, unlike school staff, private tutors (even those at educational centres) are not legally required to undergo background checks or hold teaching qualifications. This can pose a potential safeguarding risk. It is the parent or carer's responsibility to enquire whether the child's tutor has had an DBS and decide on the tutor's suitability, based on this.

To ensure the safety of all children, I want to reassure you that all school staff, as well as any extracurricular providers who work with us, have undergone the necessary DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks. Please take a moment to read the attached leaflet, which offers useful guidance when choosing a private tutor. Additionally, I recommend an insightful article from the BBC that provides further information on this issue.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9v87x2x3xwo>

Thank you for your attention and support in keeping our children safe.

Warm regards



Annie Ashraf
Headteacher

Lead with kindness, Feel the laughter, Inspire achievement,
Nurture friendships, Share the magic... Exceed expectations!