

Safeguarding – Keeping Children Healthy and Safe from Harm

In this letter we would like to share with you school policies and practices with regard to ensuring that students are taught and encouraged to live healthy lifestyles and adopt safe practices.

School policies are in place to ensure that there is a consistent approach to practices and that they are adhered to by staff, governors and volunteers. We appreciate adults have a tremendous impact on students and with this in mind adults at St. Mary's:

- are good role models for students
- enjoy their work and working with students
- are conscientious and hard-working
- welcome and support visitors to school
- recognise and value strengths in each other and use these to support the school's ethos
- work within the agreed policies of the school
- promote a happy, caring and safe environment
- encourage students to think for themselves, ask questions and find answers
- create an environment of trust whereby students are expected to work to the best of their ability
- challenge and support students in their learning to maximise potential

There are policies in place to safeguard the students including:

- **Child Protection** – this is sensitive area in which all staff receive regular training. The school works with families and other services to support the needs of its students. There is also a named Governor for child protection. The Child Protection Policy can be viewed by parents on request.
- **Attendance** – students' attendance at school is monitored on a daily basis and notable absences or patterns of absences are followed up by the staff. In more serious cases the Attendance Strategy Team will become involved. The school prides itself on its very good attendance figures.
- **Behaviour** – high standards of behaviour are expected in school at all times. The school's policy is to follow a hierarchy of sanctions should students transgress. Strategies to support students are put in place when appropriate.
- **Health and safety** - everyone here at St. Mary's knows they have a responsibility to ensure students and adults are able to work in a healthy and safe environment. The school has first aid members of staff who deal with accidents should they occur.
- **Curriculum** – through the planned curriculum we ensure that the aspects of a healthy lifestyle and safety are taught. This aspect is enhanced by the many visitors to school, e.g. Community Police Officer.

- **Safer Recruitment and Selection** – Governors ensure that all staff new to the school and volunteers who work in school on a regular basis undertake a CRB check and full references are acquired before a person takes up an appointment.
- **Complaints** – should parents have any concerns regarding a student's progress they should be directed to the relevant Student Progress Leader. There is a clear procedure in place if they cannot be resolved. Senior staff will then meet with you as part of this process. The school is committed to working closely with parents / carers for the benefit of the students. If you continue to feel an issue has not been resolved then you should put your concerns in writing to the Headteacher.

We all know that students thrive better and are able to reach their full potential when school and families work closely together. All of us here at St. Mary's are totally committed to this and we look forward to our continuing close partnership with you in the future.

Yours sincerely



R Pritchard
Headteacher