



# Stillness Junior School

## Safeguarding News

**Issue 2 – Spring Term 2024**

Safeguarding is about ensuring that everyone is safe from harm / exploitation and feels safe in our school. Harm can take many forms; bullying, abuse (physical / mental), neglect, discrimination and harassment.

All our staff understand safeguarding to be of the highest importance and they know that their vigilance of the children and of the adults is critical. All staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and their responsibility for referring any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or in their absence the Deputy Safeguarding Lead). We are committed to the provision of child protection training for all our staff.

Safeguarding issues are regularly discussed at Governors, Leadership Team and Staff Meetings and we work closely with a range of outside agencies, including Children's Social Care.

For more information please read our Safeguarding Policy (which can be accessed on our school website [www.stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk](http://www.stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk)). This policy applies to all staff, governors, professionals and volunteers working within our school.

Safeguarding Leads:

Mrs Mitzi Nichol  
Headteacher

Mrs Zoe Renner-Thomas  
Deputy Headteacher

Mrs P Brown  
Inclusion Lead

Safeguarding Governor:

Mr Dean Palmer

***Please visit our school website for further safeguarding information***

**Safeguarding is a process of making sure vulnerable children and young people are protected from being abused, neglected or exploited. If you are worried or concerned about a child and/or family please do not hesitate to email the school on [kim@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:kim@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk). Please be assured that all concerns will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.**

### **Attendance Matters .....every school day counts!**

We are sure that like us, you as parents and carers realise the importance of attendance and punctuality. At Stillness Junior School we continue to work hard to maintain our excellent attendance levels and to reduce incidences of lateness.

#### **Attendance Facts:**

- ✓ All schools must report their termly attendance percentages to the local authority
- ✓ Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child receives a full-time education
- ✓ Parents can be issued with a fixed penalty notice for failing to ensure their child attends school regularly – this includes taking a child out of school on holiday
- ✓ The local authority has the power to prosecute parents in the Magistrate's Court for the offence of failing to ensure their child attends school regularly
- ✓ If your child arrives after 8.50am they will be marked as late

There is much evidence to show that good attendance plays a vital role in helping your child to achieve their potential. We also know that poor attendance can lead to other problems for children.

Children who do not attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Fall behind in their school work
- Find it difficult to make and keep friends
- Be unhappy at school
- Misbehave so that others cannot see that they are finding the work difficult
- Learn poor attendance habits that follow through to secondary school and future employment

**KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY**

Poor punctuality can also disadvantage children in many ways:

- Being frequently late adds up to lost learning. For example, arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks of the year
  - When children are late they find it harder to settle in to the routine of the day
- When children arrive late they often miss key messages and teaching which continues to have an effect on their learning for the rest of the lesson or day
  - Poor punctuality disrupts the class and is embarrassing for the child
    - Your child being late disturbs the learning of the whole class

Getting here on time every day really is important in helping your child to become a happy and successful learner. Every day really does count!

How can you help your child attend school regularly and on time?

- ✓ Talk to your child about school
- ✓ Take a positive interest in your child's work, including their homework
- ✓ Make sure your child understands why school is important

### Safeguarding Governor Role:

The Safeguarding Governors' responsibilities include:

- ✓ Ensuring the school is following safer recruitment procedures when recruiting any new staff members
- ✓ Reviewing all activity and policy relating to the physical and emotional well-being of all children
- ✓ Seeking improvement to secure the school follows best practice in creating a productive and safe environment for all

If you think a child is in immediate danger, contact the police on 999. If you're worried about a child but they are not in immediate danger, you should share your concerns.

### What is a Designated Safeguarding Lead?

Each school must have an appropriate senior member of staff to take lead responsibility for child protection. Key aspects of the "Designated Safeguarding Lead" role include:

- Ensuring that all staff are aware of the processes for raising safeguarding concerns
- Ensuring all staff understand the signs of child abuse and neglect
  - Referring any concerns to Social Care
- Monitoring children who are the subject of Child Protection and Children in Need Plans
- Maintaining accurate and secure child protection records
- Raising awareness of the school's safeguarding policies and procedures, and ensuring these are implemented and reviewed regularly

Our Safeguarding Governor, **Mr Dean Palmer**, recently came in to school to meet and talk with some of our children about safeguarding.

The children were "very knowledgeable about what safeguarding is. The next visit would be me possibly walking around with one of the DSLs and asking different children similar questions just to see if others show the same confidence in their answers but it honestly felt like this is a subject area that the children are well informed in through classroom discussions.

I also spent some time with SBM over and discussing the Single Central register and how sensitive information is stored correctly following GDPR guidelines which with my full-time role is something I have good knowledge on, I felt very comfortable with the schools DBS tracking system as well as how this information is stored".

Please help us and your child by ensuring their attendance remains above 96%, allowing them to achieve their potential