22nd May 2018

RE: Safeguarding children

Dear Parents/Carers

Church Lane Primary School and Nursery is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all members of the school community to do the same.

We have a number of policies and procedures in place that contribute to our safeguarding commitment, including our Child Protection Policy which can be viewed on our website.

Sometimes we may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies when there are concerns about a child's welfare. We will ensure that our concerns about our pupils are discussed with his/her parents/carers first unless we have reason to believe that such a move would be contrary to the child's welfare.

One particular area that I would like to draw attention to is physical chastisement/Smacking. Whilst we are aware that it is not illegal for a parent to hit their child as long as the ‘smack’ amounts to ‘reasonable punishment’. There is, therefore, a difference between punishment and what can feasibly be termed ‘abuse’. Unreasonable punishment is classed as a smack that leaves a mark on the child, or the use of an implement to hit the child, such as a belt or cane. Smacking can be classed as common assault and is chargeable by the Crown Prosecution Service if it amounts to scratches, minor bruising, grazes, red skin, a black eye or superficial cuts. If school suspect that a mark has been left on a child as a result of a smack, school has a duty to inform children’s services.

School strongly recommend that smacking is **NOT** used as a form of punishment. Instead we suggest the following:

* Give love and warmth as much as possible
* Have clear simple rules and limits
* Be a good role model
* Praise good behaviour so it will increase
* Ignore behaviour you don’t want repeated
* Criticise behaviours, not your child
* Reward good behaviour with hugs and kisses
* Distract younger children
* Use humour
* Allow children some control; joint decisions, choices
* If a punishment is necessary, the removal of privileges, ‘time out’ or natural consequences are better.

If you would like any further information regarding this or would like support with your child please do not hesitate to speak to Anne Daynes (Assistant Headteacher) or myself.

Yours sincerely

Mr C Clay