Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

Safeguarding Newsletter for Parents – Summer 1 2019

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School
We share in Christ's life so He can guide our thoughts, words and actions.

Welcome to our Safeguarding Newsletter

Keeping children safe and well is our number one priority at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School. Every half term we produce a newsletter based on a safeguarding theme. This newsletter is designed to help school and parents to work together to safeguard children's wellbeing. This half term's topic is **how to talk about difficult world events such as terrorism & war.** In an era of 24-7 news coverage which is streamed via TV, internet and social media, children can often see, hear or read things about world events which might worry them.

Talking to children about war and conflict:

It's difficult to talk with children about war but, given children's access to media, it's almost impossible to protect them from frightening and confusing world events.

It is important to encourage children to continue to be curious about the world, to value peaceful resolutions to problems, and to feel free to come to you with questions and concerns.

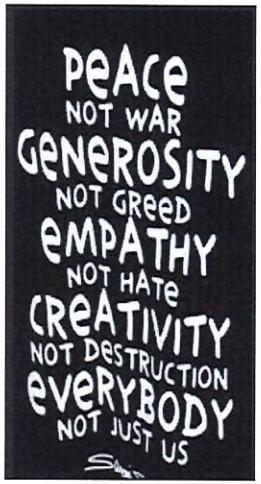
Some tips for talking to children about conflict in the world:

-Try to find out what your children already know about the situation, and how they found out about it.

-Let them know that you understand that what is happening in the world can be confusing and complicated.

- Reassure children that their feelings are valid and allow them the opportunity to talk.

- Reinforce the importance of using words to resolve conflicts. Help children to see that violence is not a constructive option.



Advice from the NCPCC on how to talk to children about terrorism:

When an act of terrorism happens it is deeply disturbing and confusing. Children will also feel these emotions. The following tips are from the NSPCC:

- listen carefully to a child's fears and worries
- offer reassurance and comfort
- avoid complicated and worrying explanations that could be frightening and confusing
- help them find advice and support to understand distressing events and feelings
- debunk stereotypes about different faiths or groups of people
- children can always contact ChildLine free and confidentially on the phone and online.

There is a very powerful video on **YouTube** called:

'The Times and the NSPCC - How should you talk to your children about terrorism?' Which shows parents having these difficult conversations with their children.

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How do schools keep children safe on school trips?

As a school we understand that parents might worry about school trips. In the current political climate these worries might intensify if the trip involves being in a busy area or city centre. The following measures are taken to try and ensure the safety of all involved:

- **Policies and procedures**. As a school we have an Educational Visits Policy. Any staff member who is leading a trip will follow the steps in this policy including completing a thorough Risk Assessment in conjunction with members of the School Leadership Team.

- **Correct adult: pupil ratio** is followed. All adults involved in the trip are briefed about any specific risks.

- All staff involved in the trip will have been **briefed** on safe routes to use. These routes will have been agreed in advance by the trip leader. They may also be based on a pre-visit conducted by a staff member.

- Members of staff on the trip are in phone contact with school.

- If travelling on public transport, the trip leader will have a plan for alternative transport arrangements should anything happens which shuts down public transport.



Additional resources & advice:

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/supporting-children-worried-about-terrorism/

https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/

unicef

We are a UNICEF Rights Respecting School.

Talk to your children about their right to safety, security, freedom of expression and freedom of religion.

Our children are the future. Informing and educating them now will reduce conflict and hate in the future.