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# **Safeguarding and Child Protection at Mossy Lea and St George's Primary**

## **January Newsletter**

### **What is the newsletter?**

The aim of our monthly safeguarding newsletter is to share useful information and advice with parents in order for us to work together to keep children safe at home, in school and in the wider community. Each month we will share information, advice, tips and useful websites that will keep children safe and protect their physical and mental wellbeing.

### **What is Safeguarding?**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined in the Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 guidance as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes



### **What is a DSL? (Designated Safeguarding Lead)**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead takes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection in school. This includes online safety. At Mossy Lea our Designated Safeguarding Leads are Andy Purcell and Antonella Greenhalgh.

All Safeguarding and Deputy Safeguarding Leads are trained to the same standard every two years. If you have any concerns about the welfare of any child at Mossy Lea, please do not hesitate to contact us. Although we have Designating Safeguarding Leads, it is important to know that ALL staff are responsible for safeguarding and take part in regular training in this area.

### **Online Safety Zoom Briefing for Parents**

There will be a briefing held via Zoom for parents to find out how to keep their children safe online on **Wednesday, 2nd March at 7:30pm**. More information can be found on the weekly newsletter.

Meeting ID: 868 5784 4456

Passcode: 941519

## Having difficult conversations with your child



We've all been on the receiving end of them and most of us have had to instigate them at some time but that doesn't make it any easier when we realise that we are going to have to have a "difficult" conversation with our child. Whatever the subject, and however old the child you're talking to, there are lots of ways to make it a bit less painful for you both and maybe even come away from the conversation knowing that you're even closer to your child than before.

It's never easy to start a serious conversation with a child. Do it too forcefully and they may well clam up straight away but if you take a more subtle approach you can find the chat gets derailed and you're soon talking about something entirely different.

So it can be a good idea to try to make the conversation relevant in some way. For example, if you're watching TV together and the on-screen action has something to do with the subject you want to talk about – say a character is being bullied – you could kick things off by asking your child what they'd do in the same situation. If you think this sounds a bit random and that you could be waiting a long time for the right topic to come up on the box then there's another method that's very useful, especially for younger children:

There are lots of story books written specially to help when you don't know quite how to talk to children about serious subjects like death, abuse and bullying. There are different titles for different age groups and they make great starting points for you to broach a subject. After you've read the story together a couple of times just ask some gentle questions about their understanding of what it was about and what they would do if they were the character in the story.

Another very good way to get your child's immediate interest could be to say that a friend of yours needs some advice about a particular issue and to ask if they have any ideas. It's a really nice way to show that you value their opinions while also finding out just how much they know about a subject – like how to stay safe on the internet.

It could be that your child has been learning about the subject you want to talk about at school as part of their Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). Talk to them about it and see what everyone in the class thought about what they were being taught.

## Remember to listen

When you want to have a serious conversation with a child it can be easy to forget that it should be a two-way thing. For them to feel truly involved it's very important to show that you are listening to them and really value what they're telling you.

Start by asking questions that don't just have "yes" and "no" answers. This is going to give your child the chance to tell you what they really think. Then give them as long as they need to answer without interrupting. They may be nervous or still working out what they really think and that could take a little time.

Don't be afraid to let your child ask you questions too. Be honest with them about how you feel about certain subjects and let them know about things that have happened to you in the past.

For more information about how to have difficult conversations with your child go to:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>