



Governors' Newsletter 20

Spring Term, February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of our first half term of 2023, we reflect on all the good work that has been done to ensure that the children have a safe and happy experience of their time in school. There are many aspects of the time they share with their peers that contribute to their growth and learning as they develop their talents and skills.

Fundamental to everything that happens in school is the culture that respects each child as a distinct individual in a diverse community. The values that underpin everything that they learn run like a thread through all aspects of school life. The children reflect on these values together in assemblies, collective worship, in the curriculum and through the extensive range of activities that help them to find their voice and feel confident to be active members of society.

They show the delights of their individual personalities as they take initiatives and support one another. They know that they must take responsibility for their learning as well as for the way they respond to one another. Sometimes they may find things more challenging than others, but they are shown that there is always someone who will be there to support them. They have a lot of fun, and they work hard.

We have the privilege to be part of their lives through our role as governors. We would like to thank you all for your commitment to their learning and for the support you give to our two schools as we work together for your children.

Rosemary Games

Chair of Governors

Keeping Children Safe in Education



In this edition of The Governors' Newsletter, we will be looking at the ways in which All Angels' Federation ensures that the children in our care are kept safe and how we teach them to keep themselves safe.

Safeguarding in our schools is not just a matter of policies and procedures, it permeates our ethos, curriculum and daily life in ways that will surprise you. Read on to learn how Governors and Staff make sure that children are kept safe in both our schools.

Safety in the School Day



We know that children learn better when they feel safe. Ensuring that there is a culture of safety throughout the Federation is a high priority. Summarising what is in place in our two schools to achieve this would be impossible in a short space. However, there is a wide range of initiatives and actions that support children to be safe through the curriculum and across the school day.

- ❖ Internet safety is an integral part of what they learn.
- ❖ Life Skills are explored through Personal, Social and Health Education as well as in Relationship and Sex Education, which are taught appropriate to the children's stages of development.
- ❖ They are encouraged to have a voice through the Voice 21 programme which helps to develop their ability to express themselves, to say what they think and how they feel, and to be courageous advocates in their world.
- ❖ The wide range of systems in place to support positive mental health and wellbeing include high level support from the Pastoral team and the Thrive curriculum which addresses emotional health and wellbeing at a class and individual level.
- ❖ The inclusive culture that characterises our diverse school community is one that respects and honours individuals, as they contribute to the vibrant life that makes school an interesting and fun place to be.

All these approaches, and many others, are constantly being reviewed and developed so that children can confidently embrace the changes that are an inevitable part of their world. The confidence that comes through empowering them to do this is enhanced through many other opportunities such as being members of the Eco and School Councils, where decisions are made that can make a difference to what happens in school, and Peer Mediators who are trained to support other children to work through their disagreements and conflicts, in the context of a Restorative culture.

Children's Physical Safety when in School

With both schools in All Angels' Federation on large open sites in residential areas, it is important that the security and integrity of the schools is regularly examined and monitored.

Governors must make sure that all health and safety regulations are complied with, and that staff have the appropriate safety training.

The premises staff regularly patrol the boundaries of the sites to make sure that the fences are secure, and they are looking for signs of intruders daily. On these patrols they are also looking for wear and tear on equipment and the fabric of the buildings for timely repairs and replacements.

Both schools are regularly checked by professionals for the integrity of fire safety equipment and smoke alarms, electrical safety, and legionella. First aiders are retested on a regular basis and there are specific paediatric first aiders for very young children.

Since the height of the pandemic extra care has been taken with hygiene around the school. Absence through illness is monitored to look for trends for a particular illness and a deep clean of premises or a particular area is ordered to avoid transmission if a trend is detected. This is why it is important to report your child's sickness on the first day they are away.



Each school has an entry system that records every use of staff passes and records visitors and contractors' details. Regular contractors from outside organisations who have contact with children also have to provide details of their DBS certificate which is proof that they have provided information to the government scheme to prove they are cleared to work with children.

For every trip and event the children attend offsite, the teacher prepares a risk assessment to be aware of any difficulties they may encounter for that particular activity. Emergency contact numbers for parents/carers are always taken on any trip and any arrangements for children with health or special needs are discussed with parents/carers.



Risk assessments are carried out for lessons in school that may include equipment that needs special instruction, e.g., swimming, science, cooking. It is important that children follow instructions for these lessons carefully. Even just tying long hair back, washing hands, or keeping equipment clean may seem simple instructions but they can be life savers in certain situations.

Car parking around the schools is particularly difficult at the beginning and end of the school day. The governors and staff at the federation are grateful for the vigilance and awareness of parents/carers at these times to make sure their children negotiate the roads safely and whilst driving they look out for other children crossing the road.

All the federation's staff are trained and kept aware that the safety of the children in our care is paramount and part of the ethos of the schools. Everyone is working to provide a safe and welcoming environment for our children. It is the first step to enjoyable and successful learning.

Role of Safeguarding Governor

Although child safety is at the heart of everything we do at All Angels', there are important legal responsibilities that must be fulfilled and monitored.

The Governing Body is here to challenge but also support the staff and Senior Leadership Team. We have a strategic leadership responsibility for the schools' safeguarding arrangements and must ensure they comply with their duties under legislation.

The Safeguarding Governors do that by:

- ❖ Checking that there is an effective Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy in place. The policies are reviewed by the School and the Governors every year.
- ❖ Reviewing the Online and Internet Safety policy regularly.
- ❖ Checking that those policies are being implemented and followed in practice.
- ❖ Meeting the Pastoral Lead every term to monitor procedures and issues for Safeguarding, Online Safety and Looked After Children.
- ❖ Visiting the schools and talking to the children.
- ❖ Each school has a Single Central Record which has details of all the people who work in or come into school on a regular basis. It is kept to ensure that all the people who are in contact with children have been properly checked out. Governors check each term to make sure it has been regularly reviewed.
- ❖ Making sure we are up to date with our knowledge so we can be as effective as possible. We do that by attending training courses and reading relevant literature.

The safety of the children is at the heart of what the schools do and as Governors we are here to support and enable the federation to perform their statutory duties.

Linda Johnson

Joint Safeguarding Governor

All Angels' Governors

Rosemary Games (**Chair of Governors**)
Laurie Bolt (**Vice Chair of Governors**)

Helen McCarney (**Headteacher**)

Janet Acaster
Clare Watson (Co-opted Staff Governor)
Lisa Ling (Staff Governor)
Jo de Vincentiis (Parent Governor)
Linda Johnson

Brian Earley
David Blake
Gavin Shiers
Drew Hales (Parent Governor)
David Walker

Feedback - Governors can be contacted by writing or emailing either of the schools in All Angels' Federation, please mark your communication for the attention of the Chair of Governors.

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