



7 February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the half term I wanted to thank you for your support in keeping our students focused on their academic studies and on the standards and expectations that support a positive school ethos. I have been pleased to see the students' commitment and focus during the recent Academy exams which has been excellent. Please continue to support your child in their follow up improvement work for those exams, ensure that they have all the correct equipment for lessons and to maintain the highest standards of attendance and punctuality. At St Paul's we are really pleased to have received a National Attendance Award from the Fisher Family Trust. Attendance is key to thriving at school, so thank you for supporting good attendance to ensure they can access learning. Please encourage your child to keep it up when we return from half term.

In *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (Sept 2022) it states that 'Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility'. I wanted to take this opportunity in my first term as Principal to remind families of the support within the Academy for safeguarding and supporting our children and to signpost you to support that is available to you outside of the Academy day. In September 2022, all staff had safeguarding training on the updated guidance and in school protocols. This knowledge and awareness is refreshed throughout the year in staff briefings and additional training sessions to deepen our knowledge and understanding.

We have two full time, experienced Safeguarding Leads in the school who can be contacted on Kim.Nicholas@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk and Bal.Assi@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk

Kim Nicholas: **Ext 183**

Bal Assi: **Ext 111**

Please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL if you have any concerns about safeguarding or child protection. I am pleased to say we also have a wider team of trained staff to support the safeguarding work within the Academy and to ensure that there is a large enough team to respond to students and their families when they have any concerns. These are:

- Ms Michelle Hepburn: Assistant Principal for Inclusion

- Mr Huw Francis: Learning Mentor

The photographs of the safeguarding team with their names are displayed around the Academy so that any student or staff member knows who to go to if they are concerned about something. If a student cannot find a member of the Safeguarding Team they should approach any member of staff to alert them of their concern; the member of staff will then ensure that the information is managed in accordance with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Practice.



If you have a concern out of Academy hours then you can contact:

Greenwich MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)

0208 921 3172

Bexley Social Care for Children

0208 303 7777

If you believe that a child is at risk or has been exposed to risk it is your duty to inform the Police or Social Care (previously known as Social Services) in the borough that you reside in.

Alongside our safeguarding work at the Academy, we provide additional staffing such as Learning Mentors and Pastoral Managers to support students in keeping themselves safe and thriving in school. The Academy also has a regular programme of PSHE and assemblies to support students in making safe and healthy choices. These sessions will also have significant input on how to support mental health and wellbeing. We are well aware that online safety is a significant concern for many parents and carers and this is also a focus for our work in assemblies, form times and in smaller groups to help them manage their online safety in a confident and well informed way. Here are two links to online resources to support you to keep your families safe online.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#guides/>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/>

We will continue to find and share resources that help us to keep our children safe in partnership with you as families, our safeguarding partners in Greenwich and the Police. Once again, thank you for your support of high standards of attendance and the high expectations we have as an Academy to underpin the success of your children.

With my very best wishes,



Mrs Sheila Ward
Principal