



Wednesday 13th September 2017

NSPCC 'Stay Safe'

NSPCC

Dear Parents,

The NSPCC's 'Speak out. Stay safe' programme is visiting St Hilda's to make sure our pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse.

I'm pleased to tell you that we will be working with the NSPCC, the UK's leading children's charity, who'll be delivering their 'Speak out. Stay safe' programme on Friday, 22nd September. This is a nationwide programme for every primary-school-aged child in the UK and Channel Islands. With the help of their friendly mascot Buddy, they'll be presenting an assembly and workshop to the children in our school. This will be through two age-appropriate assemblies.

The NSPCC will be returning the following Friday, 29th September to undertake workshops with Form V and Form VI to follow up on the issues discussed in the assembly the previous week.

"NSPCC has helped me to build the confidence to tell people about my worries and problems." Child's feedback

What is the 'Speak out. Stay safe' programme?

Through child-friendly, interactive assemblies and workshops their specially trained staff and volunteers will give our children information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries, sensitively discussing issues like bullying and sexual abuse, without using scary words or adult language.

We have studied the content of the materials and heard from other schools who have participated and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of their visit, we're convinced children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

"This service provides important information in a child-friendly way – it should be made mandatory in all schools. A brilliant service!" Teacher, Wistaston Primary, Crewe

If you would like any more information about the NSPCC 'Speak out. Stay safe' programme, including frequently asked questions, you can find it on the NSPCC website www.nspcc.org.uk/schools or please ask, and I can provide more information.

Talking about the Underwear Rule with your children

The NSPCC's work in schools will help encourage conversations about staying safe – and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation afterwards. That includes 'The Underwear Rule', a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from sexual abuse – without using scary words or even mentioning sex.

The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can find out more and download the free resources at www.nspcc.org.uk/pants.

If you would like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/.

With best wishes

Mr Sayers
Headmaster