St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

Protective Behaviours is a safety awareness and resilience-building programme, which the school has adopted. We believe that this programme is an essential part of our school curriculum. It helps children to recognise any situation where they feel worried or unsafe, such as feeling stressed, bullied or threatened and explores practical ways to keep safe. Protective Behaviours also looks at identifying support networks for times when we need someone to listen and help.

Protective Behaviours is based on two key messages:

- *We All have the Right to Feel Safe all of the Time*
- *We can talk with Someone about Anything, even if it feels awful or small*

Although we teach children the 'proper' names for their private parts, any names that parents have also chosen to use are ok too. Naming of body parts is a subject that some people do feel uncomfortable about, but avoiding such conversations can lead to children becoming confused – especially if they are trying to let someone know that they are in discomfort or if something else has happened to them. Cases have been documented in which a child was trying to tell an adult something important, but they did not have the appropriate words to use – and so important information was overlooked and missed. Using the 'official' names for body parts helps us all to have the appropriate dialogue in school, and the words are used with care and respect. We make it clear that the children may well also have their own words for private parts of their bodies; the important thing is that they know the real words too.

These lessons will be taught throughout the academic year to all year groups on the following dates:

Lesson 1: 22nd October
Lesson 2: 16th January
Lesson 3: 18th March
Lesson 4: 17th June

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the above lessons, please do not hesitate to talk with your child's teacher or make an appointment to see me.

Yours sincerely

C Walker

Mrs C Walker
Headteacher

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