



Safeguarding Newsletter—Autumn Term 2 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

All staff at Belle Vue have a responsibility to safeguard children but just a reminder to you that we have the following designated staff in place with responsibility for safeguarding:

Mrs. C Davies—Designated Safeguarding lead
Mrs. S Richardson—Deputy Safeguarding lead
Mrs. A Perrett—Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Mrs. C Mulligan—Deputy Safeguarding lead

Governor responsible for safeguarding: Mrs. S Rose

If you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of a child/children please contact the school immediately on 01384 389900 or email info@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk. **If you suspect a child is in immediate danger please ring 999. If you have a concern during holiday time, please email safeguarding@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk**



We are always mindful for the safety of our children near roads and conscious of how vulnerable they can be. At this time of year, with reduced visibility for drivers your child is even more vulnerable near roads.

With new bikes and scooters arriving at Christmas for some, the temptation to go out in the evening will be even stronger so I have included some safety tips below so that you can discuss with your child/ren how important it is to be visible when near roads.

These tips emphasise how wearing brightly coloured clothing shows up well in daylight but, as it gets dark, reflective clothing and accessories are far more effective in signalling pedestrians or cyclists to drivers.

Many schools and parents will teach children about road safety, but something as simple as wearing a high visibility coat instead of a dark school coat. Will significantly increase your children's safety on these darker mornings and evenings.

How Can My Child/ren Be Seen More Easily?

Wearing Bright and High Visibility Colours

- This could be a bright coloured coat
- Wearing high visibility strips on your coat
- High visibility reflectors on your bag or a brightly colours



Reflective Clothing at Night

- Reflective Clothing is highly effective as it can be seen from car and bike headlamps from the reflection.
- Likewise, add on reflective armbands if you do not have reflective clothing as this will have the same impact.
- Reflective is important for night-time as brightly coloured clothing does not show up as well as a reflective Fabric

REMEMBER ALSO, IF YOU HAVE A CHILD/REN THAT CYCLE TO SCHOOL MAKE SURE THEIR BIKE HAS WORKING LIGHTS!

Stranger danger or safety awareness?

Stranger danger is a phrase which has been used for many years by parents to teach children to be aware of the dangers posed by people they don't know- strangers. However, the phrase 'stranger danger' is beginning to fall out of fashion with some parents arguing that teaching children that strangers are dangerous can be detrimental to children's mental health and wellbeing. Some parents have explained that their children have developed fear/anxiety for all strangers.

Instead of 'stranger danger' there is a growing view that children should be taught 'clever never goes' instead. So what should we teach our children? Whatever phrase you use, it is important to discuss scenarios with children and keep the conversation going when out and about too. For example, if you start chatting to a 'stranger' in a shop queue, explain to your child that although you don't know them it is ok to talk- it's polite.

Explain what is ok and what is not ok; it's ok to talk but it's not ok to go off with them. Use scenarios to discuss what choices children should and shouldn't make. For example, if Billy's mum offers to give you a lift home from the park, what do you do? The answers may vary from person to person. What should you do/not do? Set some ground rules.

Do you need any help?

Being a parent is no easy task and often comes with many challenges and looking after yourself and your mental health, is crucial. Talking and sharing your concerns albeit sometimes hard, is important. It's okay to reach out for support from friends and family. There are also plenty of organisations that are here to help.

We want you to know as part of the Belle Vue community you are not alone in this and If you need emotional or financial support, we are here for you and can help to point you in the right direction of a service that can assist you. Please contact a member of the safeguarding team, our safeguarding team are here to listen, help and support your family. We also have our family support officer, Mr Slater, who is available to help.

