

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

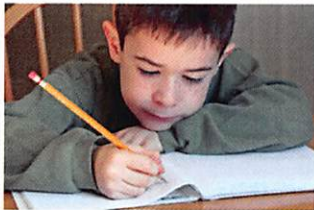


NEWSLETTER

November 2023

Welcome back to a new month and half term in school. I hope you have all had a restful break.

Thank you to all who made our first half term in school such a success. It has been wonderful to see our school community working together for the good of our children and it has been a joy to welcome the children back for their second half of the autumn term.



St Mary's Catholic Primary School Street

As I know you are aware Enfield Council have set up a School Street for St Mary's between Alexandra Road and Bursland Road.

A 'School Street' is an area transformed into a pedestrian and cycling zone operating

Monday to Friday during the school term, during set times at drop-off and pick-up times.

School Streets aim to:

- ensure the safety of school students as they arrive to and leave school,
- improve the air quality near the school, and
- encourage more young people to walk and cycle to school.

When the School Street zone is in operation during the designated hours, motor vehicles cannot pass through the zone, except for those who have applied for and received a permit or exemption.

The times of operation for the St Mary's Primary School Street are 8.15am to 9.15am, and 2.30pm to 3.30pm from Monday to Friday during school term time only and operates using a camera enforced system.

Further information on School Streets and how they operate can be found at

<https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/schoolstreets/widgets/38314/videos/3024>

<https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/SchoolStreets>



Parking

Parking difficulties in the vicinity of the school tend to occur (and have happened already this term) when children are being collected from / dropped off to school each day. I do understand how busy some of the roads around our school can be especially now that Durants Road is a school street but please make every effort to park responsibly as you drop off / collect your child each day.

I hope that during the rest of this school term all parents and carers will act in a responsible manner both for the safety of our children and a positive association with our neighbours. Thankfully so many already do.

Parents a huge thank you to so many of you for your wonderful support. More and more children are walking,

cycling or scooting to school. Lots of parents too are cycling and walking with their children.

For the minority of adults who are still blocking driveways and parking illegally in the roads around the school (we continue to receive complaints) please **park legally and walk with your child!**

Please try hard to:

- **Park legally and walk with your child.** Walking is better for your general health. If you can, leave the car at home and try to build the walking time into your child's day. If a child minder or another family member brings your child to school please encourage them to park legally and walk.
- **Please do not sit in the car with the engine running.** This is not good for the health of others.
- **Never park in / across driveways even for a minute.** This is disrespectful and causes a lot of problems for the school with local residents.
- **Never park on the zig-zag lines** during the designated no

parking times (please check the signs) or in the disabled bays which are reserved for blue badge holders.

Our Faith

The "door of faith" (Acts 14:27) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church. It is possible to cross that threshold when the word of God is proclaimed and the heart allows itself to be shaped by transforming grace. To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime. It begins with baptism (cf. Rom 6:4), through which we can address God as Father, and it ends with the passage through death to eternal life (From Homily for the beginning of the Petrine Ministry of the Bishop of Rome (24 April 2005): AAS 97 (2005), 710).

On 11th October 2012, all around the world, Church communities marked the opening of the Year of Faith.



The Year of Faith was an invitation initially from Pope Benedict XVI and subsequently from Pope Francis to all

Catholics throughout the world, both as individuals and as members of a Church community, to focus on their faith so as to deepen their understanding of what it means to have the Gift of Faith and live it each day. It was a time to nourish our understanding of Church teaching and to endeavour to develop our own spirituality.

Although the Year of Faith is now over we still need to continue to work on nourishing our own faith and helping our children to grow in their faith. What could we as adults do?

- ❖ Take our children to Mass and participate through joining in and responding. Children learn through our example.
- ❖ Encourage our older children through our example to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).
- ❖ Read the Bible / Bible stories with our children.
- ❖ Explore the lives of the saints with our children.
- ❖ Help our children to pray.
- ❖ Volunteer in school or in the Parish.
- ❖ Encourage our children to contribute to Parish and School charity events.

Remember it's never too late to start.

Lord let me see your face,
Know your heart
And experience your love in my life.

Strengthen in me the precious gift of faith.
I believe Lord;
Help my unbelief. Amen



Tips to help keep children safe on the internet and social networks

The internet does pose certain risks and dangers to children - but it offers lots of opportunities too. There are things you can do to keep your child safe.

Talking to your child is one of the best ways to keep them safe. You can also use parental controls on social networks, online games and browsers or software that can filter or monitor what your child can see.



Preventing your children from using the internet or mobile phones won't necessarily keep them safe online, so it's important to have conversations that help your

child understand how to stay safe and what to do if they ever feel scared or uncomfortable.

Follow the TALK checklist to help keep your child safe online (Internet Watch Foundation)

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has created a resource to help parents and carers understand the risks of 'self-generated child sexual abuse imagery' using the acronym 'TALK'.

To find out more, go to: <https://talk.iwf.org.uk/>

You might also find the following link helpful:

<https://www.kidsonlineworld.com/#>

This site has been created by ECP, the company which has provided our staff safeguarding training for many years and has provided numerous sessions of online safety for our children and parents. This company also provides training on behalf of the local authority and to many different business and community groups.

There is some really useful help to understand apps, games and parental controls.

<https://www.kidsonlineworld.com/parents--carers.html>

[Top Articles - KIDSONLINEWORLD.COM](#)

School Fund

You will know that part of your commitment to the School is to contribute to the School Fund. In recent years the school has undergone major works to benefit the children and the School Fund helps towards payments for these works. Each family is asked to make the following contributions towards the cost of repairs and general maintenance and improvements, which are the Governors' responsibility. All contributions are voluntary:

1 child £2.00 per week or £25.50 per term or £76.00 per year

2 children £2.50 per week or £32.00 per term or £95.00 per year

3 or more children £3.00 per week or £38.00 per term or £114.00 per year

These payments can be made on line using the 'Parentpay' system. Thank you for your support.



Year Group Addresses:

nursery@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

reception@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

year1@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

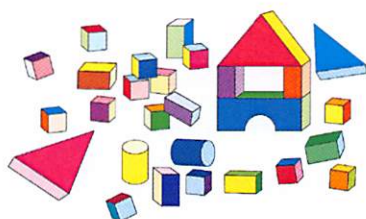
year2@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

year3@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

year4@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

year5@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

year6@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk



Try out the past papers

Designed to make pupils **think outside the box**, PMC questions can create a great starting point and lead to discussions later in the year. We try to make sure the questions are not heavily reliant on formal mathematical knowledge but can be solved by logical reasoning.

[Primary Maths Challenge - PMC Past Papers](#)

(Mathematical Association)

Thinking Skills

The current classroom displays include the use of the thinking hats.

As you know our thinking is usually affected by emotional responses, prior knowledge and experience and at times confusion. The de Bono '6 Thinking Hats' method provides a framework for thinking. We think in one direction at the time. In the '6 Hats' method thinking is divided into six different modes, each of which is represented by a coloured hat.



White Hat - Information (facts, information, questions. What you have. What you need. Where to get it.).

Red Hat - Feelings (emotions, hunches, intuition, instincts, feelings).

Black Hat - Caution (caution, judgement, assessment, weaknesses, difficulties, dangers and potential problems).

Yellow Hat - Benefits (benefits, values, good points, likelihood).

Green Hat - Creativity (alternatives, possibilities, new ideas, options, new concepts).

Blue Hat - Organising the Thinking (thinking about thinking, next steps, summarising, clarifying).

Children are enjoying making use of the hats in class again this year. Ask your child to see if he / she can tell you anything about the hats. Perhaps you might like to try it at home when coming to a decision about / discussing something with your child.

Habits of Mind

'Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes but never quit' - something Conrad Hilton said.



Staff have also been trained in the use of the 'Habits of Mind' - these are a set of habits or dispositions which focus on developing a mature, independent and successful learner / citizen in the long term. You will recognise many habits of mind immediately as you will have tried or are currently trying to develop these dispositions in your own

children. There are sixteen in total. They are:

Persisting,
Managing impulsivity,
Listening with understanding and empathy,
Thinking flexibly,
Metacognition,
Striving for accuracy,
Questioning and posing problems,
Applying past knowledge to new situations,
Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision,
Gathering data through all senses,
Creating, imagining, innovating,
Responding with wonderment and awe,
Taking responsible risks,
Finding humour,
Thinking independently,
Remaining open to continuous learning.

We are introducing these again gradually to the children. Ask your child if he / she has focused on any of the habits of mind in school. Don't hesitate to ask the teacher about the current habit of mind focus in your child's class.

Own Clothes' Day - October 2023
£140.10 was donated. Thank you children and parents.

Sickness

We have been advised by the London Borough of Enfield that any child who has been sick

must not return to school for 48 hours.



Uniform

Our uniform is part of St. Mary's identity. I would be grateful if you could encourage your child to wear full neat uniform each day including the correct socks, shoes, hair accessories and PE uniform. Children are encouraged to always try to have shirts tucked in and all buttons closed. They are asked not to tie sweatshirts around their waists.

Boots and brightly coloured coats are not encouraged.

For health and safety reasons only small stud earrings are permitted. These must be removed for PE.

So many children wear the correct uniform - thank you parents for your support with this.

Hair

Please ensure long hair is tied back in school colours only (blue / black / white). No highlights, designs, lines or dyes to be put in hair please. Remember nits love long free flowing hair too!

Mohican hairstyles are not permitted.

Nails

False nails or nail polish are not permitted in school.

Please encourage your child to respect the uniform policy by leaving all jewellery at home.

Holidays, Absences and Attendance

I would urge you to try not to book holidays during term time as time away from school can unsettle children and affect their progress. **I regret that we are unable to authorise time off during the term which is requested for holidays.**

Any requests for time off (special circumstances will only be considered) must be put in writing in advance to the Headteacher.

It is not school policy to provide homework for absence during term time.

We are required to ask for a written note to explain any absence from school.

Our overall attendance up to the end of the first half-term was 95.7%.

This is below our target of 98%.

The class with the highest attendance in the first half-term was Year 3, St. Bernadette (98.46%) very closely followed by Year 5/6, St. Joseph (98.24%).

Next were Year 5, St. Anthony (98.15%), Reception, Hope (98.11%) and Year 2, Faith (97.17%).

Then Year 4, St. Paul (96.37%), Year 3, St. Cecilia (95.54%), Year 1, Wisdom (94.76%), Reception, Grace (94.57%) and Year 1, Rosary (94.52%)

Thank you to all parents for all you do to ensure that your child is in school each day.

Handwashing Advice



We know that it is important that everyone continues to wash their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using

hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

Guidance and video on hand washing can be found at: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>

Wednesday Word

Have you started to read 'The Wednesday Word' yet? *The Wednesday Word* is a gift to you and your family because of your connection with our Catholic school.

Every Wednesday, a 'word' (inspired by the Sunday Gospel) will be suggested for you and your family to talk about in your home.

This weekly Family Time is structured around the Sunday Gospel because evidence shows that Gospel values really do help family relationships to thrive.

Regularly spending quality time with children is without doubt one of the most important aspects of parenting. *The Wednesday Word* seeks to support you in this important task: to help you and your children maintain a special closeness throughout the school years.

The Wednesday Word 'Family Time' leaflet is designed to ensure that all family members feel included. It presents an effective way for even the busiest of parents to enrich relationships with their children through spending a very special 5 or 10 minutes together each week.

We suggest Wednesdays for *Family Time* because it is the day that the Catholic Church dedicates to St Joseph - the Patron Saint of Families. But rather than miss out, any other night would do just as well.

The *Wednesday Word* is currently available online:

<http://www.wednesdayword.org/index.html>



The Angelus

In the autumn term we try to learn / say *The Angelus* each day at 12 noon in all of our junior classes from Year 3 - Year 6. This is a wonderful prayer which reminds us that God the Son became man in order to save us.

You might like to say this prayer with your child at home. It can be said in the morning, at noon or in the evening.

The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord
declared to Mary:
And she conceived of the Holy
Spirit.
Hail Mary...

Behold the handmaid of the
Lord:
Be it done to me according to
your word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made Flesh:
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...
Pray for us, O Holy Mother of
God.
That we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray.
Pour forth, we beseech you, O
Lord, your grace into our
hearts, that we, to whom the
Incarnation of Christ, your
Son, was made known by the
message of an angel, may be
brought by his passion and
cross to the glory of his
resurrection, through the same
Christ our Lord. Amen.
May the divine assistance
remain always with us and may
the souls of the faithful
departed, through the mercy
of God, rest in peace. Amen.



What is mental health?

We all have mental health.
Mental health is about our
feelings, our thinking, our
emotions and our moods.

Looking after our mental
health is important. We all
have small feelings every day:
These sometimes feel strong
and overwhelming, whether
happy or sad, but they go away
before too long.

Sometimes we experience big
feelings: These feel strong and
overwhelming for a long time.
They stop us doing what we
want to in our lives.

Young Minds also has a parent
helpline:
<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

Christian Meditation

As you know the World
Community for Christian
Meditation (WCCM) has
worked to develop videos which
provide short meditation
sessions which children and
young people can participate in,
whether in school or at
home. These sessions are
inspired by meditation in the
tradition of John Main OSB.

Full details are available
here: <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/meditation-with-children-young-people/>

Harvest

This year we again, in
partnership with our parish,
supported the Manna Centre, a
centre for the homeless in
London. Thank you for your
very generous contributions.

*Thank you for St
Mary's Harvest Festival
gifts to the Manna Centre.*

*The food that we have
received will be used
throughout the next twelve
months to provide meals to
some of the poorest members
of our society.*

*Approximately 40% of our
service users are rough
sleepers, 10% in secure socially
rented accommodation and the
remaining 50% in some form of
temporary accommodation
(hostels, friends & privately
rented accommodation)*

*The work we do here is a
practical and compassionate
response to poverty and
homelessness. The majority of
our funding and our foodstuffs
come from the Christian
community. Without the
continuing generosity of our
supporters, we would be unable
to continue our work.*

*Like many organisations during
the two years of Covid we had
to adapt our services.*

*Thankfully, now that the
threat from Covid has receded
since March 2022 we have*

returned to our open-door policy. A breakfast, lunch and washing facilities are available 7 days a week, Housing & Welfare Advice (in two formats) five days a week, a clothing store once a week, three medical surgeries weekly and access to computers. On an average day we see about 120 people

We are dependent on voluntary donations to raise approx. 89% of our annual £500,000 budget.

Without your support we would be unable to offer the services we do. Any help you can give, financially or practically (food or men's clothing) throughout the year, will benefit some of the poorest members of our society.

On behalf of those who will benefit from your generosity please accept our thanks.

Best wishes

Paddy Boyle

Manna Society Administrator

Participating in Mass online

Since Saturday 4th July 2020 there has been live streaming of our parish services, The link is: <https://www.churchservices.tv/enfield>



Support for Prayer

Father John has asked me to remind you that the church is now open each morning from 8.15am to enable families / parents to call in to pray.

Some Dates for this term

Wednesday 1st November: Feast of All Saints - School Mass in church for Years 2-6 at 9.30am.

Thursday 2nd November: Feast of All Souls - Years 3-6 to Mass at 9.30am.

Thursday 2nd—Wednesday 8th November: Book Fair after school
Tuesday 7th November: Bring your Dad to School AM.

Thursday 9th November: Year 3 to parish Mass at 9.30am.

Wednesday 15th November: Photographer in school - individual photographs.

Tuesday 21st November: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Years 5+6 to Mass followed by Benediction.

Wednesday 22nd November: Nasal flu Immunisations.

Friday 24th November: Own Clothes' Day - items for Christmas Bazaar.

Thursday 30th November: Years 5 and 6 to Mass at 9.30am followed by Confessions.

Friday 1st December: Nursery Christmas Performance AM.

Monday 4th December: School Mass in church for Years 2-6 at 9.30am for Blessing of Advent Wreath.

Year 1 Christmas Performance AM (parents with babies and toddlers).

Tuesday 5th December: Reception Christmas Performance AM (parents with babies and toddlers).

Wednesday 6th December: Year 1 Christmas Performance AM (adults).

Thursday 7th December: Reception Christmas Performance AM (adults).

Friday 8th December: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - School Mass in church for Years 3-6.

Monday 11th December: Year 2 Carol Service for parents / relatives, 9.30am (for Nightingale Hospice).

Thursday 12th December: Junior Carol Service in church, 5pm (for the Nightingale Hospice)

Thursday 14th December: Year 4 to parish Mass at 9.30am.

Monday 18th December: Christmas Lunch.

Tuesday 19th December: Christmas Class Parties PM.

Friday 22nd December: Last day of autumn term - School Mass (Mrs. Derwin's 19th anniversary Mass) in church for Years 2-6.

Early Closing (12.45 Infants and 1pm Juniors). Own Clothes' Day.

Monday 8th January 2024: Return to school for Spring Term.

On occasions it is necessary to change dates. I apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

These are some of the prayers we say with the children each day in school. You might like to say these in the morning with your child, at meal times or before he / she goes to bed.

Morning Offering

O My God, you love me,
You are with me night and day.

I want to love you always in all
I do and say.
I'll try to please you Father.
Bless me through the day.
Amen



Night Prayer

God our Father, I come to say,
Thank you for your love today.
Thank you for my family,
And all the things you give to
me.
Guard me in the dark of night.
And in the morning send your
light. Amen.



Grace Before Meals

Bless us O Lord
As we sit together.
Bless the food we eat today.
Bless the hands that made the
food.
Bless us O Lord. Amen.

Grace After Meals

Thank you God
For the food we have eaten.
Thank you God
For all our friends.
Thank you God
For everything.



Thank you and Best Wishes!

Thank you for your continued
support. We are truly blessed
with the support we receive
from our families always.

You and your children continue
to be remembered in our staff
prayers at school every
morning before school.

Miss M. Creed
Headteacher

St John Paul II Feast Day

The feast of St John Paul II is
usually celebrated on 22nd
October. This year the 22nd
October was on a Sunday so
the Mass for the 29th Sunday
of the Year was celebrated
instead.

For an entertaining animation
on the life of this great saint
see [Saint John Paul II, the
Life of a Holy Pope - YouTube](#)

Some of St John Paul's own
prayers including the one below
can be found here:

[Pope John Paul II Prayers :
University of Dayton, Ohio
\(udayton.edu\)](#)

Mother Mary,
Be with us more and more.
Meet us more and more often
because we need it so much.

Speak to us by your
motherhood, by your simplicity
and by holiness.
Speak to us by your
Immaculate Conception! Speak
to us continually!
And obtain for us the grace-
even if we are distant- of not
becoming insensitive to your
presence in our midst. Amen

Talk PANTS resources for parents

'We want all parents to talk
PANTS. That's why we've
created guides and resources
to help them find the right
words to talk to their children
about staying safe'

[> Find Talk PANTS resources for
parents on the NSPCC website](#)

ADMISSIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024

*Due to the fact that there
are now fewer pupils in
London (there is a continued
decrease in the population of
children) and the issues with
finding affordable housing we
currently have places in our
Nursery, Reception, Years 1,
2 and 4 2023-2024 year
groups.*

**Thank you parents for
recommending our school and
helping to build up our pupil
numbers. Please continue to
do this.**

From our School Inspection Reports:

'The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection...Pupils make good progress from their various starting points...Their willingness to come to school is evident in their well above average rates of attendance...You have successfully maintained the above-average attainment by the end of Year 6 in reading, writing and mathematics...Teachers form good relationships with pupils, providing them with a wealth of interesting activities across the curriculum. Pupils concentrate well in class and are keen to work with each other...Pupils say they feel safe at school and know how to avoid danger in the wider community(OFSTED Inspection, June 2018).

'A. Classroom religious education is outstanding

- *The school has adapted and developed the themes of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory in an excellent manner to meet the learning needs of the pupils' of St Mary's.*
- *The religious education programme in use fully delivers this content and the use of De Bono system in religious education pushes pupils to develop*

their understanding further.

- *After carefully analysing the needs of their pupils, the school has developed a curriculum and teaching programme that has reached outstanding achievement by the pupils in religious education.*
- *Teachers have high expectations and plan lessons that deepen pupils' religious literacy.*
- *Since the last inspection, staff confidence in recording and assessment has been demonstrably achieved with the evidence of the clarity and confidence on the part of the staff in planning imaginative lessons based on the religious education programme followed in the school.*
- *The headteacher is also the religious education curriculum coordinator and she takes the closest interest in developing the excellent teaching and learning of religious education in the school.*
- *The chair of governors is a recent appointment but with her years of experience on the governing body she is clear in her role of both support and challenge in pursuing the special responsibility of governors of a Catholic school.*

B. The Catholic life of the school is outstanding

- *The curriculum fully conforms to the classroom curriculum time of at least 10% for religious education and teaching is fully in line with the requirements of the Bishops' Conference.*
- *The previous inspection asked the school to develop pupils' understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and to help pupils understand the ethics of the market place and fair trade. The school has fully addressed these priorities, both in their classroom teaching and in the encouragement offered when choosing charities to support.*
- *The pupils of St Mary's enjoy an outstanding experience of prayer, liturgy and Catholic worship.*
- *Pupils and staff have a deep understanding of the call to 'human flourishing' and are given opportunities to develop and celebrate their gifts and talents.*
- *Partnership with the parents is excellent; they appreciate and support all that the school provides for their children.*

- *The leadership and management of the school are very effective in promoting the Catholic life of the school. The head is strong and devoted in providing both oversight and support on all aspects of Catholic life. The contribution and regular visits of the parish priest provides a strong and stable reinforcement of the foundational position of Catholicism in the life of the school' (OFSTED Section 48 Inspection, September 2019).*

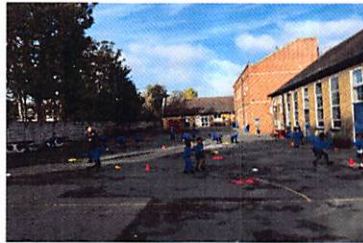


Our School Prayer

This is our school.
 May we all live here
 Happily together.
 May our school be full of joy.
 May love dwell here among us
 Every day.

Love of one another,
 Love of all people everywhere,
 Love of life itself,
 And love of God.

Let us all remember that
 As many hands build a house,
 So every child
 Can make this school
 A lovely place. Amen





Online Safety Newsletter

November 2023

Staying safe on a PlayStation

Internet Matters have teamed up with Sony Interactive Entertainment to create a quiz that you can play with your child to see who knows more about the safety options available on a PlayStation. Play the quiz here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/press-start-for-playstation-safety/>



Ollee - your virtual friend

Parent Zone have created 'Ollee,' a virtual friend that asks your child how they are feeling and provides ideas and advice to help. Ollee is aimed at 8-11 year olds. You are also able to use the app to find advice around any issues that you think your child might be having.

You can find out more here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/Ollee>

Roblox

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Players can either create games or play games that other users have created. It is free to download (however subscription options and in game/app purchases are available) and can be played across numerous devices. **A lot of the content is user generated, which may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. It is important to set up appropriate parental controls for your child.**



What rating is Roblox?

PEGI rate Roblox with a Parental Guidance label, this is because it is difficult to rate due to the huge level of user generated content. It is rated for 'Teens' on Google Play and **12+** on the App store.

What should I be aware of?

Chat Facility - Players can chat to each other on Roblox. You can turn communication off completely or add restrictions, such as only communicate with friends.

Virtual Currency - Players can buy Robux (their virtual currency) to buy in-game upgrades or accessories. For children under 13, you can set the Monthly Spend Restriction in settings.

Game content – as mentioned, users create games so sometimes the content/themes may not be appropriate for your child.

How do I report abuse and block users?

Roblox have a Report Abuse system so show your child how to use it to report inappropriate content as well as how to block other users. There are different ways of doing this depending on the device being used.

How do I set up parental controls and a pin?

Parental controls are available within settings. We recommend that you explore the parental controls available and set as appropriate. You can enable a PIN, which means that changes cannot be made without this pin. You can set up Allowed Experiences, which allows you to select age-appropriate experiences, so your child can only join experiences that match their age. Age categories available are for all, 9+, 13+ and 17+. All experiences are still searchable though.

To view content that is suitable for 17+, then a user must participate in a verification process by submitting valid ID.

Further information:

- <https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>
- <https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/roblox/>

TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok.

TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. Some of the videos on TikTok may not be appropriate for your child to view and there is also the risk of strangers contacting your child. If your child is using TikTok then make sure the appropriate security/privacy settings are on.



Account set up

By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private at the start and we would recommend keeping it as this. This means your child must approve follower requests. You can read more about the other settings available (such as switching off comments and switching on restricted mode) here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings>

As always, it is important that when setting up an account on TikTok, your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age. For example, Direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15 and they do not receive push notifications from 9pm. In addition, advertisements are tailored to the user's age.

Family Pairing

This allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode (limit the appearance of content that may not be appropriate) and screen time management. You can find out more here: <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>

Inappropriate content, themes and challenges on TikTok

Whilst against TikTok's guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be dangerous. If your child is using TikTok, chat to them regularly about what they are viewing.

Blocking and Reporting

Ensure your child knows how to use the safety features available to them, including how to report comments, direct messages and another user. You can find out more here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/report-a-problem>

Further information

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>

WhatsApp's editing feature

You must be at least 16 years old to use WhatsApp.

You may have noticed that WhatsApp have added an editing feature so you can change messages that you have sent for up to 15 minutes afterwards. Childnet have published a blog outlining what you should be aware about with this new feature:

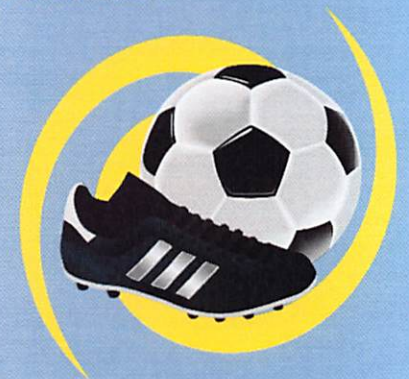
<https://www.childnet.com/blog/find-out-whatsapps-new-features-and-how-it-can-impact-online-safety/>

EA Sports FC 24

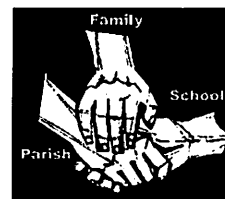
EA Sports FC 24 has been rated as PEGI 3, which means it is suitable for those over the age of 3. However, you need to be aware that the game does include in-app purchases and users can interact with each other.

EA Sports FC 24 was released in September and is a rebranding for the EA FIFA series. It is available to play across a series of platforms.

As players can communicate with others, your child may be exposed to inappropriate language and there is also the risk of grooming when online interaction takes place. Ensure your child knows how to use the applicable reporting tools. The chat facility can be switched off.



Family – Parish – School Links



St. Mary’s Catholic Primary School Autumn 2023 Second Half-Term



Newsletter for Parents – Nursery and Reception

Religious Education	
Topic Theme: Advent and Christmas	
Students will explore the events, rituals and practices of Advent and Christmas, in time with the Church Liturgical Year.	
Learning opportunities include:	Monitoring opportunities:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hearing the story of Christmas. Coming to know Jesus is God the Father’s Son. Coming to know that Mary is the mother of Jesus. Experiencing that a Church is a special place where God’s people gather to pray. Experiencing praying with others as a celebration. Experiencing liturgical celebrations in a variety of simple settings. Joining in simple prayers and hymns. Considering ways in which a Christian family and parish share and celebrate life, and show care for one another. 	Students’ development will be monitored through observation and the collection of work samples for their portfolio.
Affective and Spiritual Dispositions	
<i>It is hoped that pupils will develop:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An understanding that the stories of Jesus in the Bible link with the liturgical seasons of the church year. A familiarity with the Seasons of Advent and Christmas, during which we anticipate and celebrate the incarnation: God in our world. 	
Activities to try at home	
Parents are the first educators of their child in faith. Students’ learning in religious education occurs best when school and family are engaged in talking about the same topics. You could help your child by trying one or more of these activities while this topic is being taught:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk with your child about Advent and Christmas – how it is celebrated in the Church and in wider society. Note the different cultural expressions of Christmas: cards in other languages, foods of other cultures, customs and celebrations of other communities. . 	

- Talk to your child about birth: their own, yours and other members of your family. Talk about your ancestors: grandparents and great grandparents. Think about your own family heritage.
- Read stories about Christmas. Remember there are two distinct stories in the Gospel: many picture stories amalgamate the two!

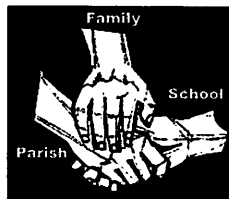
An idea for prayer at home

Prayer Activity

Have an Advent wreath as a focal point in your home. Light a candle for each week of Advent and pray 'God of light, help us to be people who walk with you towards the birth of your son.'



St. Mary's Catholic Primary
Religious Education Newsletter
Autumn 2023 (second half-term) -
Years 1-6



Religious Education

Key Idea: From Advent to Christmas

This topic is intended for the second in the academic year 2023/2024. As the days shorten and winter comes upon us we are invited to consider the light of Christ who came into the world at Christmas. As the Gospel of Mark has no story of the birth of Jesus, this topic looks at who Christians around the world celebrate the coming of God into the world.

Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

Spiritual Outcomes: *It is hoped that pupils will develop:*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sense of the importance of prayer • A willingness to pray | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An attitude of respect for the many traditions of Christmas • Appreciation for the gift of God at Christmas |
|--|--|

Activities to try at home

You are the first educator of your child in faith. Your child's learning in religious education will be much greater if you and the school are engaged in talking about the same ideas and beliefs. Help your child by trying this activity while this topic is being taught:

- This topic focuses on how different cultural groups celebrate Christmas. Talk to your children about any particular practices you and your family might have, particularly if, and how, your culture might be evident in what you do. If you can, encourage your children to share your cultural customs with their peers at school.

An idea for prayer at home

Prayer Activity

Loving God, you created people full of dignity still more wonderfully restored our dignity when we failed. At this time of Advent help us remember Jesus who humbled himself to live like us, so that we might be able to share his divinity. We ask this through Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Adapted from the Opening Prayer of Christmas Day Liturgy.



Christmas

TREE APPEAL 2023

Scan the QR code to buy or donate towards presents, so children experiencing poverty in London receive a gift this Christmas

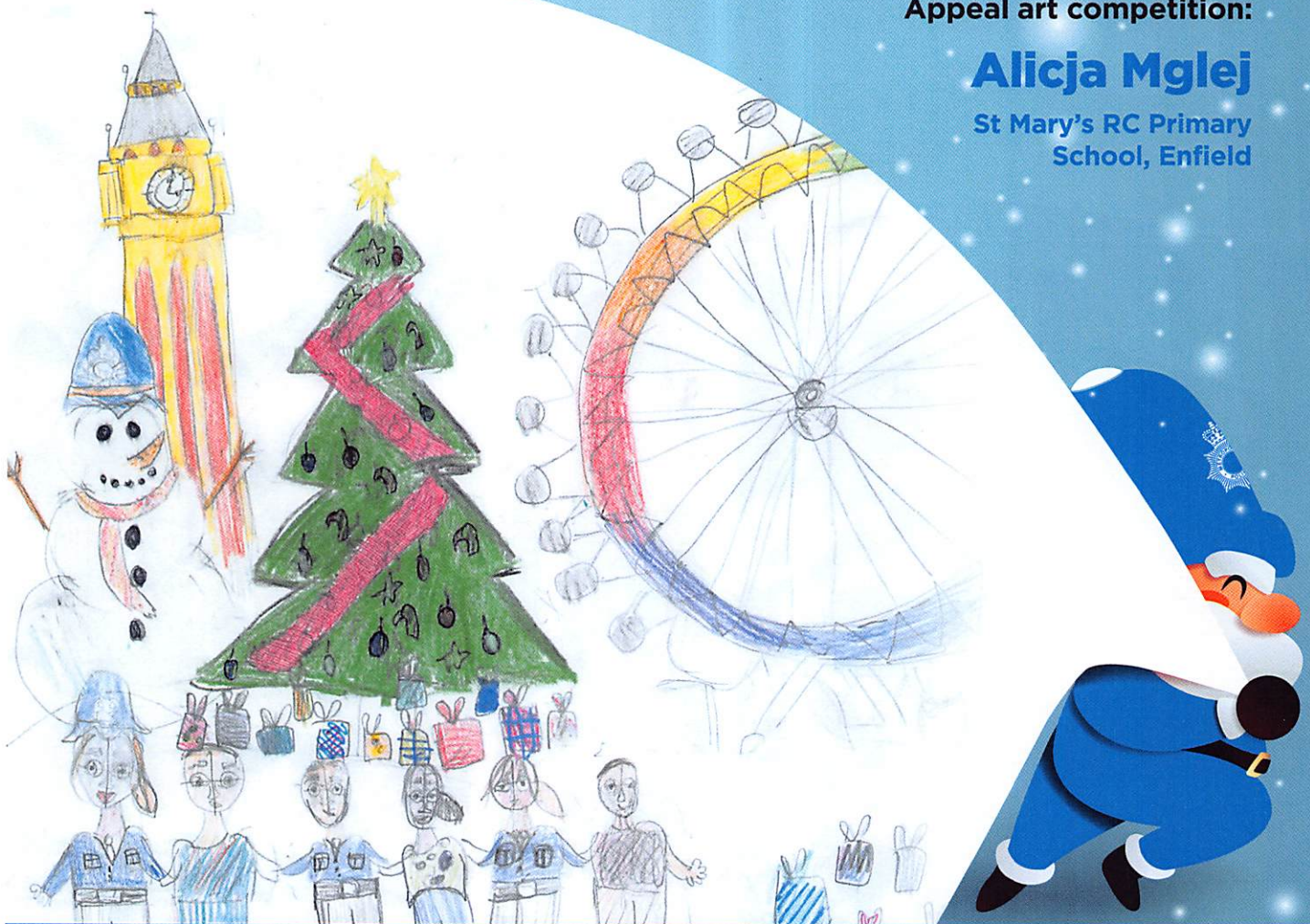


www.metchristmastreeappeal.org/donate

Winner of the Christmas Tree Appeal art competition:

Alicja Mglej

St Mary's RC Primary School, Enfield



METROPOLITAN
POLICE

The
ChildhoodTrust
Alleviating the impact of child poverty



THE MANNA DAY CENTRE

12 MELIOR STREET, LONDON SE1 3QP

www.mannasociety.org.uk

Tele: 020 7357 9363

(Day centre for homeless people & those in need)

**A
BIG
“THANK YOU”
FOR YOUR
HARVEST FESTIVAL
GIFTS.**

**YOUR DONATION ENABLES US TO
PROVIDE:**

**A BREAKFAST & COOKED LUNCH
FOR APPROX. 120
PEOPLE EVERYDAY
(7 DAYS A WEEK)**

MANY THANKS



COME AND PLAY: DRUM KIT!

ENFIELD MUSIC SERVICE

A CHANCE TO TRY OUT LEARNING TO PLAY DRUM KIT

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2023

11:15 - 12:30

FREE TO ATTEND

**THE RAGLAN SCHOOLS
RAGLAN ROAD, EN1 2RG**

COME ALONG TO OUR OPEN
SESSION AND TRY OUT LEARNING
TO PLAY THE DRUM KIT

SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN IN
SCHOOL YEAR 5 AND ABOVE,
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

SPACES AVAILABLE FOR LESSONS AT THE
SATURDAY CENTRE FROM JANUARY 2024



PLEASE EMAIL PAULA.WARREN@ENFIELD.GOV.UK WITH ANY QUERIES

WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF I KEEP MY CHILD FROM SCHOOL FOR AN UNAUTHORISED REASON?

Local authorities and schools can use various legal powers if your child is missing school without a good reason. Consequences of continued absence are:

- a Parenting Order
- an Education Supervision Order
- a School Attendance Order
- a fine (sometimes known as a 'penalty notice')



WARNING

You can be given one or more of these but the council does not have to do this before prosecuting you.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!
Every Student, Every School, Every Day

WHAT EACH SANCTION MEANS

Parenting Order

A parenting order is a sanction that is decided and issued by the Magistrates court (if the local authority instigates court proceedings). This means you have to go to parenting classes. You'll also have to do what the court says to improve your child's school attendance.

Education Supervision Order

If the local authority thinks you need support getting your child to go to school but you're not co-operating, they can apply to a court for an Education Supervision Order.

A supervisor will be appointed to help you get your child into education. The local authority can do this instead of prosecuting you, or as well as.

School Attendance Order*

You'll get a School Attendance Order if the local authority thinks your child is not getting an education.

You have 15 days to provide evidence that you've registered your child with the school listed in the order or that you're giving them [home education](#). If you do not, you could be prosecuted or given a fine.

**This is a legal proceeding instigated by the local authority and referred to the Magistrates court for their consideration.*

Penalty Notices

Your local authority can give each parent a fine of £60 per child (issued on behalf of schools), which rises to £120 per child if you do not pay within 21 days. If you do not pay the fine after 28 days you may be prosecuted for your child/ren's absence from school.

Prosecution

You could get a court fine of up to £2,500, a community order or a jail sentence up to 3 months. The court also gives you a Parenting Order.

IMPROVING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

YOUR ROLE AS A PARENT/CARER



Good attendance at school is the single most important factor in ensuring that children and young people have the best opportunities in adult life.

How parents/carers can help their child have good attendance?

- From starting at nursery, make sure your child arrives at school on time, every day.
- Encourage your child to take part in school activities and ensure that they understand the importance of being there every day.
- Don't let your child take time off school for minor ailments – particularly those which would not stop you from going to work.
- Where possible, make appointments after school, at weekends or during school holidays.
- Remember, a morning appointment does not mean a whole day of absence. Bring your child back to school in the afternoon.
- Take family holidays during school holiday time only. Schools publish term time dates well in advance – use these to plan your family holiday.
- Encourage your child to tell you about any problems they may have at school. If you know or think that your child is having difficulties attending school you should contact the school straight away.
- Find out regularly your child's attendance and absence record and check that this matches with your own records.
- Acknowledge, praise and reward good or improved attendance, even small successes.



There are 365 days in a calendar year and 175 of them are non-school days! That's plenty of time to book appointments, holidays and lots of quality family time together!

Below 90%

Serious impact on education and reduces life chances

90-95%

Less chance of success

96% & above

Best chance of success



But it's only a day

▶ **90% attendance = half day missed every week!**

▶ **One school year at 90% attendance = four weeks of learning missed!**

▶ **Over 5 years of school = half school year missed!**

All children and young people whose school attendance is 90% or below are considered to be persistent absentees.



THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL ABSENCE

- The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 have higher rates of attendance compared to those with the lowest attainment.
- At Key Stage 4 the overall absence rate of pupils not achieving grades 9-4 was over twice as high as those achieving grade 9-5 (8.8% absence compared to 3.7% absence).

Taken from 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance', September 2022




Inter Faith Week 2023



COOPERATE/LEARN/TALK/REFLECT/APPRECIATE/
RESPECT/VOLUNTEER/MAKE FRIENDS/CELEBRATE

12–19 November / www.interfaithweek.org

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter:

 [facebook.com/IFWeek](https://www.facebook.com/IFWeek)  [@IFWeek](https://www.instagram.com/IFWeek)  [@IFWeek](https://www.twitter.com/IFWeek)

Inter Faith Week is a programme of the Inter Faith Network for the UK Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB 020 7730 0410 | www.interfaith.org.uk | ifnet@interfaith.org.uk
Registered charity no. 1068934. Company limited by guarantee no. 3443823. Registered in England.

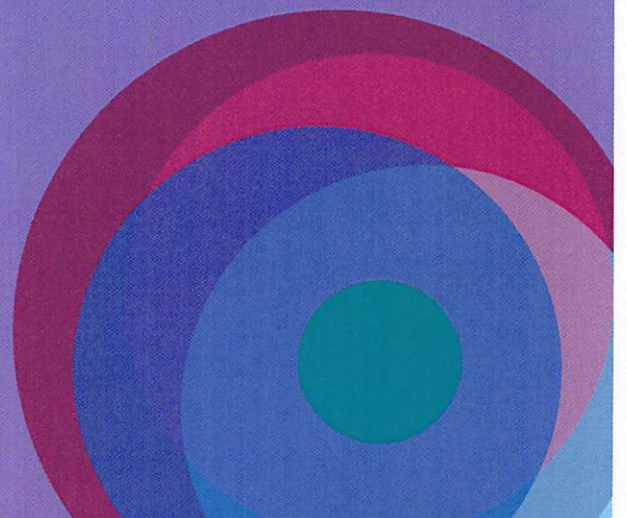


The work of IFN is supported by faith communities, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Trusts, and other donors.



Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Top L to R: St Albans School IFW lesson; Barking & Dagenham Faith Forum and B&D Council IFW flag raising; London Buddhist Vihara IFW event. Bottom L to R: North Kirkless Interfaith Roses for Peace; Brent Multi-Faith Forum Peace Walk and tree planting (photo: Saqani Choudhry); Birmingham Faith Covenant re-signing (photo: Birmingham City Council).
Photos from bodies listed except where noted.



Immunisations For Children Attending School, College or Universities

Vaccines help to protect your child from many serious and potentially deadly diseases. It helps to protect other people in your family and community by helping to stop diseases spreading to people who cannot have the vaccination. They prevent millions of deaths worldwide every year.

Always get your vaccine and health information from trusted sources, such as the NHS or World Health Organisation (WHO).

The School Aged Immunisation Service administer vaccinations in schools and hold catch-up clinics for children who have missed any immunisations.

For Pre-School Boosters Please contact GP.

Flu Year group changes each year depending on NHS requirements.

HPV and MMR Year 8 (these are normally done at school).

MEN ACWY, Diphtheria, Polio, Tetanus Year 9 (these are normally done at school).

Important

If your child has started college or university, make sure they have already had:

- **Men ACWY vaccine** Protects against serious infection like meningitis (the GP can give this vaccination)
- **2 doses of MMR vaccine** There are outbreaks of mumps and measles at universities (your GP can provide this vaccination)
- **HPV vaccine** Helps protect against genital warts and cancers caused by the human papilloma virus (HPV) such as cervical cancer.

Before the Enfield Immunisation Team visit your child's school for the different vaccination(s), you will receive a consent form via email to complete.

If your child is of school age, and you would like further information on the vaccinations and/or you need your child to attend the catch-up clinic, please contact **The School Aged Immunisation Service** on 020 8702 3499 or email beh-tr.enfieldimmunisationteam@nhs.net.

Until April 2024, there is an NHS Polio Campaign running. This is aiming to catch children up with all of their missed vaccines. If your child is in school and is missing MMR or Pre-School Booster doses, please contact our Polio phone line on 020 8702 6187.

For more information, please visit our website www.saisenfield.co.uk.

Food Support in Enfield

Food Pantries

If you are finding your money does not stretch far enough and you are struggling to afford the cost of food, a food pantry can provide you with a heavily discounted food shop. To receive support from a food pantry you will pay a weekly membership fee (between £3.50 and £4.50), which will allow you to shop at the pantry each week. Pantries look similar to shops and you are able to select a certain amount of food based on your own food preferences. There are 5 pantries located across Enfield:

Enfield Town Pantry

Enfield Town Library
66 Church Street
Enfield
EN2 6AX

Open Thursdays and Fridays. Referral and self-referral only through the Enfield Welfare Advice and support team. Visit www.enfield.gov.uk and search 'welfare advice and support' to find the referral form

Ordnance Road Pantry

Ordnance Road Methodist Church
100 Ordnance Road
Enfield
EN3 6BW

Open Saturdays, from 1pm to 3pm. No referral required. For more information, email ordnancepantry@gmail.com

Fore Street Pantry

Edmonton Methodist Church
Fore Street
Edmonton
N9 0PN

Open Saturdays, from 11am to 1pm. No referral required.

Edmonton Green Pantry

Edmonton Green Library
36-44 South Mall
Edmonton
N9 0TN

Open Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Referral and self-referral only through the Enfield Welfare Advice and support team. Visit www.enfield.gov.uk and search 'welfare advice and support' to find the referral form

Bounces Road Pantry

229 Bounces Road
Edmonton
N9 8LN

Open Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 9am to 3pm
No referral required. For more information, email sadiyaam@hotmail.co.uk

Food Co-ops

Food co-ops are small buying groups, providing their members with free and affordable groceries, sourced in bulk and distributed at a very low price. Cooperation Town food co-ops are owned by their members and run according to local needs. Members decide collectively on how to organise and are responsible for the day to day running of the co-op. While each Cooperation Town co-op is independent, the network is designed to share resources and support across the movement. For more information on joining a food co-op in Enfield, email will@cooperation.town or call 07562 005011

Other Support with Food

For other support with food and to find out more about the local support available to help with rising living costs, please visit: www.enfield.gov.uk/helpingyou

LEARN THE UNDERWEAR RULE

TALK

P

A

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T

S

AND YOU'VE GOT IT COVERED!

P RIVATES ARE PRIVATE

A LWAYS REMEMBER YOUR BODY BELONGS TO YOU

N O MEANS NO

T ALK ABOUT SECRETS THAT UPSET YOU

S PEAK UP, SOMEONE CAN HELP

ChildLine
0800 1111

ChildLine is a service provided by the NSPCC.
2013391. Registered charity numbers 216401 and SC037717

NSPCC
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

LEARN THE UNDERWEAR RULE

TALK PANTS AND YOU'VE GOT IT COVERED!

P RIVATES ARE PRIVATE

Parts of your body covered by underwear are private. No one should ask to see, or touch them. Sometimes doctors, nurses or family members might have to. But they should always explain why, and ask if it's OK first. No one should ask you to touch or look at parts of their body that are covered by underwear.



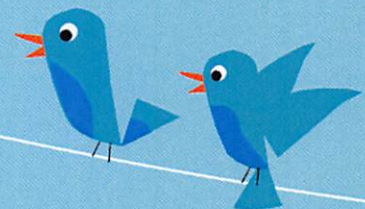
A LWAYS REMEMBER YOUR BODY BELONGS TO YOU

It's your body, no one else's. No one should make you do things that make you feel embarrassed or uncomfortable. If anyone tries, tell an adult you trust.



N O MEANS NO

You have the right to say 'no' – even to a family member or someone you love. Remember, you're in control of your body and your feelings are important.



T ALK ABOUT SECRETS THAT UPSET YOU

Secrets shouldn't make you feel upset or worried. If they do, tell an adult you trust. You will never get into trouble for sharing a secret that upsets you.



S PEAK UP, SOMEONE CAN HELP

Talk about stuff that makes you worried or upset. An adult you trust will listen, and be able to help. It doesn't have to be a family member. It can be a teacher or a friend's parent – or even ChildLine.



NSPCC 
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.