

CHILD SAFETY POLICY (Students' Version)

Commitment to Child Safety (Your Safety is Important)

Every child at St Thomas the Apostle P.S. (STAPS) Cranbourne East should feel and be safe at all times. Not only do we build our community on the four pillars of Prayer, Thanksgiving, Service and Respect, but we also have our school's code of behaviour which is "Safety, Learning & Respect."

When we talk about safety we think about feeling safe and being safe. We want all children, all of the time acting safely, feeling safe and telling an adult if they see something that makes them feel unsafe, is unsafe or could be unsafe.

This helps everyone in our community learn and become the people that God wants us to be.

Child Safe Principles

In our community at STAPS we are blessed with people from about 40 different countries and cultures. This makes our community very special. We have families from almost all over the world.

We have families from Africa, India, Britain, the Philippines, Mauritius, China, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Holland, South Africa, Sudan, South Sudan, Nigeria, Italy, Greece, Malta, Solomon Islands...just about everywhere! And Australia of course!

We also have families that have different religions. Most of our students are Roman Catholics, but we also have Anglicans, Presbyterians and other Christian faiths in our community. We also have Sikh families, Muslim families and Hindu families.

This makes our community very diverse, this means we have many people from many different countries and religions...but it also means we are all special in our own way.

If all these groups can be safe at school, we can learn a lot from each other. Each year in June we celebrate Pentecost and Harmony day to celebrate and welcome all the different cultures and faiths we are so lucky to have here at STAPS. But we should celebrate our diversity every day and make sure everyone is safe and feels safe all the time!

We all are special in other ways too. Some people are tall, some people are small, some people wear turbans, some don't, some are good at sport, some are good at music, some have dark skin, some have light skin, some wear glasses, some people walk with a limp, some have hearing aids, some find it hard to learn to read, some people have asthma, some are allergic to some foods, some write with their left hand...we are all different...this is what makes us awesome!!!

Empowering Students

We can learn a lot from each other by learning about what makes each of us special, but we should always treat others and be treated with respect.

You can do this by being friendly, welcoming them to the school, learning each other's names, saying please and thank you and treating each other the way we would like to be treated. This makes people feel safe and respected and helps them to learn.

You should not point or stare at anyone, call them names because this can hurt their feelings and make them sad. It also makes them feel unsafe. You should call people by their name. If you do not know their name, ask them. If someone asks you to stop calling them a certain name or to stop playing in a way that someone might get hurt, make sure you listen to them.

Responsibilities of Adults in the School

Everyone at STAPS can help make the school be a place where everyone feels and is safe all of the time. The children can keep the Code of Behaviour: Safety, Learning & Respect and so can the adults. All the staff are trained to help make STAPS a safe place for every child all of the time and all visitors to the school are shown how to help us be safe.

Adults should set a good example and be aware that we have people in our community from many different countries and cultures and that many of our students and families have different faiths. They also get told that we are all special in our own way and everyone should be treated with respect and feel and be safe all the time.

The grown-ups are also told to tell staff members if they know, see or hear someone acting in a way that is not safe.

How to Report Concerns

If someone is being unsafe or making you or someone feel unsafe, you can ask them to stop, tell them to stop or ask an adult for some help.

At school, you ask your classroom teacher, another teacher or one of the adults in the office, or you can tell your parents or carers when you get home.

Your teachers will show you how to do this throughout the year and remind you from time to time. They will also teach you useful strategies like the "Catastrophe Scale," "Five Finger Strategy" and "Way of Mercy."

Definitions

Code of Behaviour: Safety, Learning & Respect.

Safety is walking inside, holding onto the handrail when using the stairs, taking notice of what other people are doing, following the school and road safety rules and many other things.

Learning is working together, thinking about how you learn, asking questions and solving problems, getting more knowledge and skills and trying your best.

Respect is feeling safe, saying please and thank-you, using people's names, taking turns, talking quietly, opening the door for others. Treating people the way you would like to be treated.

Diversity: Being Different

“Five Finger Strategy.”

Is when you can list 5 people you can trust to talk to about your problems. One for each finger on your hand.

Catastrophe Scale:

When you rate an event depending on how bad it makes you feel.

Way of Mercy:

A plan to help you solve your challenges with other people. A copy is in the school diary.

Four Pillars:

Prayer, Thanksgiving, Service & Reconciliation.

Prayer: When we listen and talk to God.

Thanksgiving: When we say and show our gratitude for everything we have received. Even our challenges. Also known as, “an attitude of gratitude.”

Service: When we do stuff for others...cheerfully!

Reconciliation: When we repair our friendships and relationships with God, others and ourselves.

Evaluation: This policy will be reviewed in November, 2018.