



CPD Federation Newsletter

Issue 6.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN



Both schools continue to see a number of new children and families join the school who have particular needs that we have to consider and support. This continues to add additional pressures to stretched teams. Despite budget constraints we hope to strengthen the safeguarding and pastoral teams in each school next year.

I also just want to give you a quick overview of the duties placed on schools and how we deal with 'incidents' in school. 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' is the guidance we have to follow in school. It is a comprehensive document that outlines the actions we must take if we have a concern about a child. What we must do:

1. If a child tells us something that is a cause for concern we may contact you and, without asking any leading questions, we want to hear your side of the incident. If both stories corroborate we may not take any further action but a note will be kept on record. If there is a disconnect between the two stories then we may have to refer it on to another agency to investigate. The school does not investigate and / or make any judgements.
2. If a child tells us something that is a real cause for concern we may immediately refer the information on to another agency to investigate with out telling you. This can understandably cause you stress and worry but we are following the appropriate procedures. Sometimes that means we cannot release the child into your care at the end of the day. Again, we recognise this can be very upsetting and anger you but please keep in mind the staff are only doing their job and following the guidance they need to. We would appreciate you trying to remain as calm as you can in situations like this. Social Workers and the Police are also very busy professions.

Please remember at all times school staff have the best interests of the child at the heart of what they do. Sometimes children exaggerate in what they say or make false accusations but this is very rare. We have to listen to children and take the necessary actions. Your understanding, during a difficult situation for both sides, would be very much appreciated.

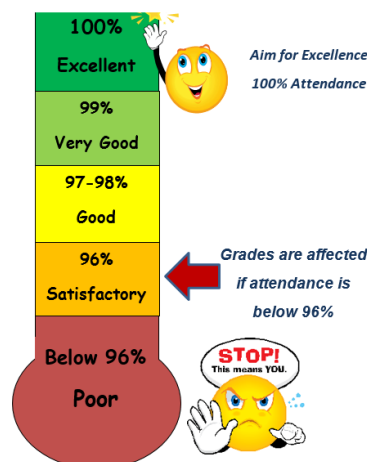


IMPROVING ATTENDANCE

Each school has been working very hard to improve attendance over the last 12 months. We appointed an Education Welfare Officer at the start of the year to help us tackle absence, especially persistent absence.

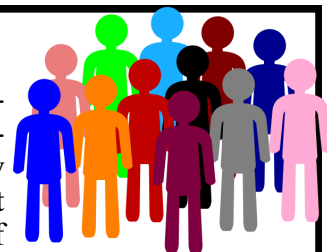
Before and after Christmas we had quite a large number of families who took extra time and this had an impact on our attendance figures. Whilst we aim for 96% attendance to match the national this really is still only a satisfactory level. We should be aiming for 100% and we can only do that with your help. Attendance matters for your child's learning. The school will continue to instruct the Local Authority to issue 'fines' when parents ignore our instructions.

ATTENDANCE



LEARNING WALK—Use of Other Adults

Once again, it was great to walk around both schools earlier this term with a focus on what the other adults were doing (not teachers) in the classroom and outside the classroom. I was really pleased to see, and I am sure you will be really pleased to hear, that the other adults working in the school are committed and put in extra effort for your children. Whilst I do think at Dersingham there is a bit of a culture of dependency being built up with adults doing too much for some children it was good to note the progress our most needy children have made. Both schools have specific programmes for children with SEN and the children who need extra support with their learning are getting the adults full attention. I would like to see more of the work changed to meet the needs of the children better and my next learning walk will focus on differentiation—how much is the work adapted to meet the needs of the individual children rather than just being given support to work on the same work as everyone else.



SCHOOL DATES

A reminder, children return to school on **Monday 25 February 2019** after the half term break. Also, to note that Easter falls late this year and the Easter holidays begin **Monday 8th April until Monday 22nd April**. Children return to school on **Tuesday 23 April 2019**. The dates for this year and the next academic year are on each school's website. Please use these to plan any holidays.



READING BUS

Next half term, we hope to start to refurbish the bus we have purchased at Central Park. Thank you to the couple of families who have said they would be willing to help with any work required. If anyone else wants to offer their help please contact the school office or Manjit Gill directly—manjit.gill@cpsdschoolsfederation.org. We look forward to hearing from you.



SCHOOL BUDGETS

As an Executive Team, we continue to concern ourselves with budget setting for the forthcoming financial year. To date we still do not know how much each school will get but some positive news from the Local Authority has been that they are working on the basis that no school should receive less than they had this year. This certainly helps as a starting point but does not take into account the pressures being placed on school budgets nationally.

The Governors are currently considering the need to look at each staff structure, is it fit for purpose across two schools and do we need to duplicate roles in each school. Therefore there is some considerable discussion around sharing staff across the Federation. As mentioned on the front page, we are also looking at how we can strengthen the pastoral team in each school.

At Central Park we hope to see some significant savings by trialling a new way of releasing teachers for their PPA time in the new year. This will give teachers a chance to all plan together whilst the children have different activities to cover some of the curriculum needs. More information will follow on this once approved.

The schools will continue to maintain staff : pupil ratios as best as we can in these challenging times and thank you in advance for your understanding if difficult decisions have to be made.



ENJOY THE HALF TERM BREAK

Wishing everyone an enjoyable half-term break next week. For those of you working I hope you might get some time off to enjoy the break with your children. A reminder that London has so much to offer—some of it free for children—that will enhance your children's experience and learning opportunities e.g. museums, galleries, parks, etc. Do try and visit any of these if you can.

Darren Williams, Executive Headteacher