



Cirrus Primary Academy Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 09642581. Registered office address: Wallington Primary Academy, Mollison Drive, Wallington, SM6 9JN.

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Monday 23rd January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Safeguarding Children

**‘Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play.’
(Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022)**

Schools have a statutory responsibility under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children both in and out of school.

Sutton Local Authority have recently written to schools and feel it appropriate to clarify the law surrounding physical chastisement. The UK law protects every child up to the age of 18 years from cruel and abusive treatment by their parents and carers.

- It is against the law for a parent to use physical punishment on their child that causes marks.
- It is illegal to use an implement to hit a child.
- Parents who cause deliberate harm to their child could face criminal prosecution.
- It is against the law for anyone who is not the child's parent to use ANY form of physical punishment.

As we work in partnership, we know that you will share our commitment to safeguard not only your child/ren but children within and beyond the local community. It is important to remember that:

- Parents are responsible for disciplining their child/ren or those under their care when they are not in school.
- The use of physical force in disciplining children may be illegal in certain circumstances. This may include where an implement (e.g. belt, stick, slipper, kitchen utensil) has been used or where the use of that force has resulted in visible injury.
- The use of prolonged physical stress positions is also illegal. (This is where children are placed in a position of discomfort for a long period of time.)

In these circumstances the school has a statutory duty to report such incidents to Children’s Social Care and that the police may be asked to investigate.

Should you want further advice and information on statutory guidance, legislation and parenting support please see Cirrus Primary Academy Trust Child Protection Policy on the school’s website www.barrowhedges.com

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Wood

Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs S Roberts

CEO and Trust Safeguarding Lead