



Dear Parents,

Every child has the right to feel safe at all times. Each year however, thousands of children across Australia experience abuse. It is estimated that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 7 boys will be subject to some form of unwanted sexual activity before the age of 18 (Australian Institute of Criminology 2000).

Many parents focus on the issue of "stranger danger" when teaching personal safety to their children. Statistics show us however, that 96% of children who experience abuse know and trust the perpetrator. (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2000-2001).

Protective Behaviours is an internationally acclaimed personal safety and child abuse prevention program endorsed by the Department of Education in Western Australia. The program is based on two themes:

- "We all have the right to feel safe at all times" and
- "We can talk with someone about anything, no matter what it is"

The staff at this school have participated in Protective Behaviours Professional Development Workshops and will be integrating the Protective Behaviours Program into the curriculum from Kindergarten through to Year Six in Term 3 this year.

The 10 main Protective Behaviours topic areas include:

- "We all have the right to feel safe at all times"
- Early Warning Signs (the physical sensations we experience in our body when feeling unsafe or excited)
- Safety Continuum (safe / fun to feel scared / risking on purpose / unsafe)
- "We can talk with someone about anything, no matter what it is"
- Networks (Identifying adults that we can talk with and ask for help if we feel unsafe /scared / worried)
- Persistence (Persisting in asking for help until you feel safe again)
- Body Awareness, Ownership and Private and Public parts of the body (including teaching and using the correct anatomical names for private parts of the body)
- Personal Space (social distance) & Safe and Unsafe Touch
- Assertiveness (body language/ tone of voice / NO GO TELL)

If you would like to learn more about the Protective Behaviours Program and what you can do to help your children develop skills and strategies to stay safe, speak with your child's teacher or myself. A free booklet is also included in this week's newsletter.

Yours sincerely

Jayne Ebsworthy
Principal
22nd July 2020