



## Children's Mental Health Week at St Paul's CE Primary

At St Paul's we are pleased to announce that we will be celebrating Children's Mental Health Week in conjunction with Place2Be, a children's mental health charity.

Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on 5<sup>th</sup> – 11th February **and this year's theme is My Voice Matters** which is focusing on empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves.

When we feel empowered, there is a positive impact on our wellbeing. Children who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and self-esteem. During Children's Mental Health Week, we want all children and young people to be able to say – and believe - "My Voice Matters."

A range of activities have been planned during the course of the week that emphasise on the importance of us all having our own voice and the significance of being heard.

Thank you for your support in relation to this and we look forward to celebrating this important week within our school community.

## Safer Internet Day 6<sup>th</sup> February

Safer Internet Day 2024 will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, with learning based around the theme '**Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online**'. Each class will be taking part in activities relating to internet safety on this day.

## **Penalty Notices for Non-School Attendance: Information Letter**

Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996 empowers the local authority to issue Penalty Notices in cases of unauthorised absence from school. This means that when a pupil has unauthorised absence of 10 sessions (5 days) or more, in a 12 week period (where no acceptable reason has been given for the absence) or if their child persistently arrives late for school after the close of registration, their parents may receive a Penalty Notice of £120, which is reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days. The Penalty Notice will need to be paid in full before 28 days of the Notice being served. Failure to pay a Penalty Notice may result in prosecution (a separate Penalty Notice may be issued to each parent for each child).

In law, an offence is committed if a parent fails to secure a child's regular attendance at school. Tameside Education Welfare Service, in conjunction with schools and Greater Manchester Police, will use these powers as an early deterrent to prevent patterns of unauthorised absence developing.

Parents may also receive a Penalty Notice without a warning letter for the offence of failing to secure regular school attendance under the following circumstances:

- Their child is stopped on a truancy sweep
- Where the absence is recorded as an unauthorised leave of absence for a minimum of 10 sessions (5 school days) in a 12 week period

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 also makes it an offence if a parent fails to ensure that their child is not in a public place during the first 5 days of a fixed term or permanent exclusion. Penalty Notices may be issued for such an offence.

The issuing of a Penalty Notice is an alternative to issuing proceedings at court. As a proportionate response, the Local Authority is likely to give parents the opportunity to discharge their liability to criminal proceedings by way of a Penalty Notice on the first occasion.

Once a parent has discharged liability by paying a Penalty Notice on at least one occasion and where there are further unauthorised absences, they may not be given the option of paying a further Penalty Notice, but may instead be summoned to appear before Tameside Magistrate's Court to answer an offence under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996: failure to ensure regular attendance. Conviction of an offence under section 444(1) may result in a fine of £1000. Under section 444(1A), convictions may result in a fine of £2,500, a community order, electronic tagging or a custodial sentence and a criminal conviction recorded.

Parents and carers of pupils registered at this school are reminded that they hold legal responsibility for ensuring that their child attends school regularly and punctually.

St Paul's CE Primary School shares the Government's determination to raise levels of pupil attendance and achievement in order to ensure the best possible start in life for our children.

Support and guidance on attendance is always available from our school and if you have any specific queries in relation to this letter, please contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely,  
Mr Wright

## **Save The Date**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February  
Young Voices Concert  
at the AO Arena

5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> February  
Children's Mental  
Health Week

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February  
Safer Internet Day

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February  
Yr. 2 Trip

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February Yr.  
5/6 Evacuation  
themed day

School closes for half  
term at 3.15pm on  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

School reopens after  
half term on Monday  
19<sup>th</sup> February. Gates  
open at 8.40am.  
School starts at  
8.45am.

Weds 21<sup>st</sup> and Thurs  
22<sup>nd</sup> February  
Bikeability for those in  
Year 5/6 who have  
signed up for a place.

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'Life in all its fullness'  
(John 10:10)