



Reculver Church of England Primary School

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Head teacher: Mr J Fox BA Hons, PGCE, NPQH

Deputy Head: Mrs J Ashley-Jones B.A (Ed) Hons

Dear Parent/Carer

Monday 23rd March 2015

I am writing to you concerning the 'safeguarding' incident at the school on Thursday morning. The reports that you may have heard on KMFM or read on the online Herne Bay Gazette were not entirely accurate and it is important you know exactly what took place and what actions are being taken by the school to ensure there will be no reoccurrence.

- Just before 9am on Thursday an adult was found in the girls' toilet by a pupil.
- The pupil immediately reported the incident to her teacher.
- The teacher went to the toilet area but there was no sign of the intruder.
- The incident was immediately reported to the Deputy Head Teacher, who ordered the school to be searched and secured.
- The Deputy Head and a member of the IEB, who was present in the school at that time, went to see the girl pupil who had reported the incident.
- The pupil explained what had happened and had prepared a detailed description of the individual.
- This description was passed to the police who had been called using the 999 emergency service and attended some 30 minutes later.
- The Area Education Officer was informed whose office alerted all schools in the area to increase vigilance. *(Please note: This is a standard operating procedure. In this case one of the staff of a local school saw fit to publish the details on Facebook before we ourselves had the chance to alert our parents/carers)*
- The Nursery Manager was informed and asked if the description matched any parent that had visited the Nursery that morning-the answer was 'no.'
- The school staff that had been on gate duty that morning also failed to recognise a parent/carers from that description.



- The Police investigation is ongoing: however, a parent yesterday posted on the KM website that it was them who innocently nipped in to the toilet after dropping off their children, as they were caught short. We continue to liaise with the police on this matter and you will be advised of any result.

The following steps were taken and will be taken:

- A review of the CCTV coverage of ALL approaches to the school and general areas in the school. Where there are any gaps these will be immediately addressed and cover arranged.
- A further review of the Nursery gate security has been undertaken and a report drawn up with recommendations. There is an identifiable need for the Nursery to follow the same system of gate security as the school follows and this must be insisted on.
- How the intruder was able to get inside the school building will also be rigorously investigated, a report drawn up and all recommendations implemented.
- The school has a long perimeter between the sports field and the adjoining area. This has been reviewed and a report drawn up with recommendations.
- All doors leading to the playground area will be either permanently secured and opened as and when necessary at which time they will be permanently manned by a member of staff.
- The system whereby parents/carers are allowed into the playground area at the start and end of the school day has to be reviewed. However we cannot have one system for the Nursery Parents accessing the Nursery through the Nursery gate and a more stringent system for our own parents especially those with children in 'Early Years' as this would be unfair.
- As from Friday 20th March there was an increased staff presence on the gates and in the playground area adjacent to the Nursery entrance.

In conclusion you should be reassured that this incident has been treated as very serious. The staff followed the security procedures but we will now review those procedures to see if they need to be reinforced. The girl pupil who reported the incident has to be highly commended for her calm approach and for the description of the intruder that she produced.

We understand that the incident has been discussed in detail on Facebook without full knowledge of the incident. Where allegations have been made that are untrue, appropriate action that is needed will be taken with the individuals who have posted these incorrect facts, as these postings have served to heighten tensions and spread unnecessary worry. To protect and reassure our staff, appropriate action will be taken towards individuals who have posted or 'liked' information, which has directly named staff or brought their professional judgement into disrepute.

Should you wish to discuss any of the above or any other concerns that you may have then please see Mrs. Ashley-Jones or a member of the I.E.B., who will be in attendance during the Parents Evening tonight and Tuesday night, from 3.30pm to 7pm.

Yours faithfully

The IEB and Senior Leadership Team of Reculver C.E Primary School

