

Dear Parent,

Protective Behaviours

This term, as part of the Health Curriculum, students in Kindy, Year 2, 4 and 6 will be completing a unit of study set by the Department of Education, called Protective Behaviours.

What is Protective Behaviours?

The program teaches children a range of skills and strategies to prevent and reduce child abuse (particularly sexual abuse) and violence in our communities. "Children who have been taught Protective Behaviours are more able to discern threats to their safety and are more likely to suggest using personal safety strategies than comparison children" (Johnson, 1985).

The Protective Behaviours program involves a series of age-appropriate lessons where students discuss their right to feel safe and actions they can take to avoid possible unsafe situations. Teaching preventative strategies is a proactive way to strengthen children's ability to keep themselves safe and minimise risk.

Why do we need Protective Behaviours?

- 85% of abused children are abused by someone known and trusted by them.
- To help protect children as we simply cannot be with them every minute of the day.
- To empower people with the right to feel safe and act to keep themselves safe.
- To give children and adults permission to talk about problems they face.

Protective Behaviours Teaching & Learning

Each year level's learning tasks differ slightly but are based around the same two central themes:

1. We have the right to feel safe at all times
2. We can talk with someone about anything no matter what it is.

Learning tasks reinforce the core topics of feelings, early warning signs, the safety continuum, networks, persistence, body awareness, secrets, personal space, persistence and assertiveness.

It is important we empower children so they are able to apply these preventative strategies as everyday life skills.

As some of these topics are of a sensitive nature, teachers will apply strategies to ensure a safe, trusting learning environment is established.

Please feel free to contact your child's teacher at any stage if needed.

Kind Regards,

Rebecca O'Neill
Health & Wellbeing Curriculum Leader

20th July 2018