

Wednesday 5th Febuary



Incidents In The Local Area Over The Weekend

Over the weekend there were several serious incidents in the local area, involving violence in which several people got hurt. The police are currently investigating and are working hard to ensure our local area is as safe as possible. Our thoughts are with the victims, their families and all those affected, hoping for their full recovery. We thank the police and emergency services for their bravery and for preventing further loss of life.

We are encouraging our students to be vigilant ensuring they make their way straight home, staying on well-lit paths and showing our school values of love, hope and trust to support each other.

In school, we are providing support for those who may need to seek additional help with what has happened. This can be accessed via the student hub. Students have also been provided with the details for ChildLine, which is a free and confidential phone line (0800 111 11.) Our school safeguarding lead is Ms Dionne Jude and Deputy DSL is Nicola Van Zyl.

Additional support services have been provided by Lambeth council; 'If you wish to speak to somebody about any personal impact due to this incident please email mseedat@lambeth.gov.uk confidentially with your name and contact details and a council officer will be in touch with you as soon as possible.'

There is also a helpline available for those who have been affected 08 08 16 89 111.

We continue to pray for peace and cohesion in our local area and beyond!



Supporting Children Worried About Terrorism

Police have issued new guidance to young people about what to do in the event of a terror attack. If you're concerned about how a child is feeling following recent attacks or would like advice on how to talk to your children about terrorism, you can call the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000.

Children are exposed to news in many ways, and what they see can worry them. Our advice can help you have a conversation with your child:

- Listen carefully to a child's fears and worries
- Offer reassurance and comfort
- Avoid complicated and worrying explanations that could be frightening and confusing
- Help them find advice and support to understand distressing events and feelings
- Children can always contact Childline free and confidentially on the phone and online.

It's also important to address bullying and abuse following the terrorist attacks.

Some children may feel targeted because of their faith or appearance

Look for signs of bullying, and make sure that they know they can talk with you about it. Often children might feel scared or embarrassed, so reassure them it's not their fault that this is happening, and that they can always talk to you or another adult they trust. Alert your child's school so that they can be aware of the issue.

Dealing with offensive or unkind comments about a child's faith or background

If you think this is happening, it's important to intervene. Calmly explain that comments like this are not acceptable. Your child should also understand that someone's beliefs do not make them a terrorist. Explain that most people are as scared and hurt by the attacks as your child is. You could ask them how they think the other child felt, or ask them how they felt when someone said something unkind to them. Explain what you will do next, such as telling your child's school, and what you expect them to do.