



'Achieving our best by learning together and serving one another with Christ by our side'



KS2 Author Visit

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we close for the end of another week, it's been another busy time in the life of Saint Ignatius.

This week, as a staff we began a new venture called **Deliberate Practice**. As a school we are always actively looking outwards to find the best practice taking place in schools near and far and taking on board the things that we think will really have a significant impact on our children. To this end, this week as a whole school we have focused on high-quality interactions with one another. Every child and adult should greet one another in a full sentence where possible using eye contact and speaking in complete sentences. Where you can support this at home I would be grateful.

We have continued to work on developing strong table manners at lunchtime, as we begin to make the final plans for our **Family, Fine Dining** at Saint Ignatius. It is clear that many children are receiving this support at home and I am very thankful to you for supporting your child in learning the key skills of table manners.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MONDAY 19TH JANUARY

Cultures Week (All Week)
Years 1-6 Flamenco Workshop

TUESDAY 20TH JANUARY

Years 4-6 Police Talk

WEDNESDAY 22ND JANUARY

Cultures Exhibition @ 1.30-3pm

THURSDAY 23RD JANUARY

Year 5 Parent Assembly

FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY

Celebration of Cultures
Year 4 attend Mass

Learning is a journey for us all

It is very important to me that children see that the adults within the school are continuously learning and trying to improve their practice too. Therefore, every class teacher has their own target on their classroom door to indicate the importance of continuous learning. Two members of staff visited an outstanding provider of education last week and gave feedback to the leadership team.

Attendance

Thank you also for your support with ensuring your child is attending school every day and on time. Attendance and punctuality really are significant factors in your child's progress and outcomes. Each half term we meet with class teachers to talk about every child, their progress and what we can do next to further support them. As part of these meetings we look at attendance and there is, in many cases, a direct correlation between high attendance and high achievement.

Cultures Exhibition

Please, please try to commit to creating a stall for our Cultures Exhibition next week. This really was such a positive experience last year and many parents shared their delight at having the opportunity to share their culture with the whole community. Please contact the office (admin@st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk) if you are able to create a stall.

Finally, in the lives of our wonderful children, Year 6 and Year 2 have had some terrific workshops this week about World War 2 and the Victorians respectively, which have enabled the learning to really come to life and embed key knowledge, for the children, across the curriculum.

This half term, we are focusing on learning more about Mother Teresa and how through her actions we learn about how to live our lives the best we can. Please find attached a very dear poem by Mother Teresa called '[Do It Anyway](#)', and if you have time to read it, I think you will find it is a very powerful message for us all. If your child completes some homework on her, it will be displayed in the hall.

Have a wonderful weekend, thank you again for being such a terrific community of parents to work with. This is never underestimated.

God bless,

Ms Murphy, Headteacher

Mother Teresa Poem - Do It Anyway

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered;
forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;
be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true
enemies;
succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;
be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;
build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, there may be jealousy;
be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;
it was never between you and them anyway.

Workshops and Trips

Please see below a summary of the workshops and educational trips scheduled so far this year, along with their corresponding payment deadlines.

We kindly ask that all payments are made by the stated deadlines to ensure that each event can go ahead as planned.

Workshops and Trips

- **Flamenco Workshop**
 - Year Group: Years 1–6
 - Date: 19 January 2026
 - Payment Deadline: 16 January 2026
- **Rose Theatre Trip**
 - Year Group: Year 5
 - Date: 9 February 2026
 - Payment Deadline: 2 February 2026
- **Wisley Gardens Trip**
 - Year Group: Reception
 - Date: 11 March 2026
 - Payment Deadline: 20 February 2026
- **Bocketts Farm Trip**
 - Year Group: Reception
 - Date: 21 April 2026
 - Payment Deadline: 27 March 2026
- **PGL Residential Trip**
 - Year Group: Current Year 5
 - Please refer to the previous letter for the full payment schedule.
 - Deposit Deadline: 30 January 2026

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Miss McCormack - School Office

After School Clubs

If your child is attending an after school club, please can we ask you to remind them which club they will be attending and on which day(s).

Miss McCormack - School Office

Author Visit - Mel Taylor-Bessent



We were delighted to welcome author Mel Taylor-Bessent to school on Monday morning. KS2 pupils thoroughly enjoyed hearing about her new book **Race to Ruin** and learning about her life as an author. Mel shared how she develops story ideas, uses mapping to plan her writing and explained the editing process. She also spoke about how her wonderful illustrator helps bring her stories to life.

Following the visit, pupils took part in creative activities inspired by Mel, using their imaginations as budding authors. It was lovely to see such enthusiasm for reading and a real buzz around writing across KS2.

Please note the author was short a few copies of the book, so if your child didn't return home with their signed copy it will be handed to them next week.

Miss Brown - Year 6 Class Teacher and KS2 Reading Lead

Year 6 WW2 Workshop

Year 6 pupils thoroughly enjoyed an engaging WW2 enrichment experience when they were visited by an actress from the Royal Gunpowder Mills in East London.

The children were transported back to 1942 as they met Miss Gaunt, who brought history to life through her roles as a munitions factory worker by day and an ARP warden in her spare time. She shared fascinating insights into what both roles involved and what life was like for people living in Britain during wartime.

The session also included exciting code-breaking activities, fuelled by the rumour that a spy had infiltrated the factory and was passing vital information to the enemy. The children were fully immersed throughout and left feeling inspired, enthusiastic and eager to learn more about life during WWII as the term continues.

Mr Newman and Mr Sheehan - Year 6 Class Teachers

Year 2 Victorian Day Workshop

On Thursday this week, our Year 2 pupils were transported back to 1899 to take part in a day in the life of a Victorian school child workshop, led by a stern Victorian schoolteacher. In this interactive drama workshop, the children experienced first-hand what life was like in a Victorian board school.

They had a fun-filled day they won't forget, being assessed in handwriting, drill, and arithmetic. In order not to receive a Victorian punishment, the children had to be careful not to break the school rule: "Speech is silver, silence is golden!"

The children also enjoyed our Victorian museum, where they handled a range of artefacts including a blackboard, pinafore, copybook, ink pot, finger stocks, arithmetic book, cane, inkwell, bell, and a certificate of merit. They thought it was very exciting to wear white gloves while handling these special artefacts.

This exciting day was topped off by one of our children's grandads who attended in the afternoon and talked about his school days in Wales. School was certainly very different in the past!

Mrs Pegram - Year 2 Class Teacher



Cultures Exhibition

On **Wednesday 21st January** we are holding a Cultures Exhibition in our school hall. We would like to invite parents to come and visit the exhibition during pick up at 3pm. Please collect your child from their class teacher prior to visiting.

On display you will find representations from Brazil, India, Poland, Sri Lanka and many more countries. There will be information to read regarding the countries, interactive activities to partake in and food to taste.

Thank you to all of the parents that have offered to run a stall. There is still time to sign up if you would like join us. Please email Mrs Tunnicliffe at admin@st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk.

Mrs Pegram - Year 2 Class Teacher and Geography Lead

Celebrate Your Culture

**FRIDAY 23RD
JANUARY**

Pupils can wear traditional clothing or colours to represent their culture

As part of our Cultures Week next week, children are invited to wear traditional clothing or any colours that they free represents their culture on **Friday 23rd January**.

During the afternoon, each class will take part in a '**Presentation of Culture**', where children will be encouraged to share something that is meaningful to their culture. This might include a traditional dance, dress, song, language, story or another special aspect of their heritage.

Mrs Pegram - Year 2 Class Teacher

PE Notices

Years 5 & 6 Boys A Team Football

The following fixtures have been arranged:

- Monday 2nd February (home vs Ashford CofE). Letter to follow next week
- Tuesday 10th March (away vs Riverbridge). Letter to follow

Year 5 & 6 Girls A Team Football

The girls played extremely well in their match against St Nicks on Monday and were awarded with a 2-0 win. Well done girls, we are very proud of you!

The following fixtures have been arranged:

- Friday 23rd January (home vs Hawkdale). Letter sent out
- Monday 26th January (home vs Meadhurst). Letter sent out

Years 5 & 6 Indoor Sports Hall

Taking place on Wednesday 28th January. Letter sent out.

If you have a problem with the link please email me (a.grady@st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk)

Miss Grady - Year 1 Class Teacher and PE Lead

Opal Play

The following children have been awarded an OPAL play certificate during our Friday Celebration Assembly.

Golden Broom Award

- KS1 - Talia A-A
- KS2 - Amelia W

Golden Welly Award

- KS1 - Elion M
- KS2 - Rubani K-M

Miss Frew - Assistant Headteacher



Headteacher Awards

Each week our pupils are recognised for following our school values. This week's value was **Kind Katie**. During our Celebration Assembly today the following children were awarded a Headteacher Award.

Reception:

- Hedgehogs - Poppy G
- Badgers - Elena B

Year 1:

- 1OS - Aiden P
- 1G - Sasha P

Year 2:

- 2C - Celine S
- 2BP - Amelia L

Year 3:

- 3V - Maicey K
- 3BF - Amaya B

Year 4:

- 4P - Ariella P
- 4AP - Alfie P

Year 5:

- 5W - Veronika K
- 5B - Otilia O

Year 6:

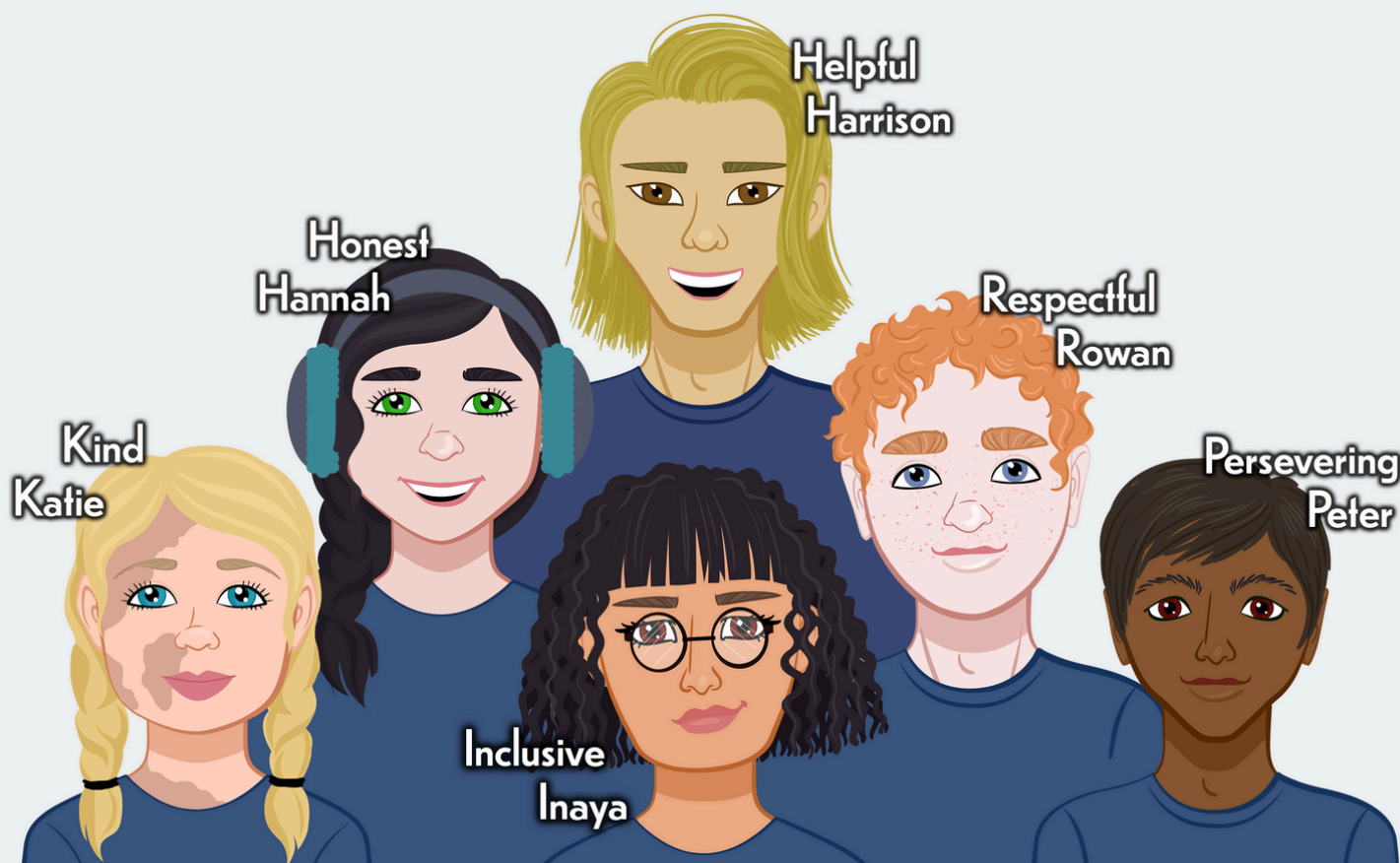
- 6N - Gracie M
- 6S - Louie M

I am so very proud of each and every one of you!

Ms Murphy - Headteacher



St Ignatius Catholic Primary School
"Achieving our best by learning together and serving one another"



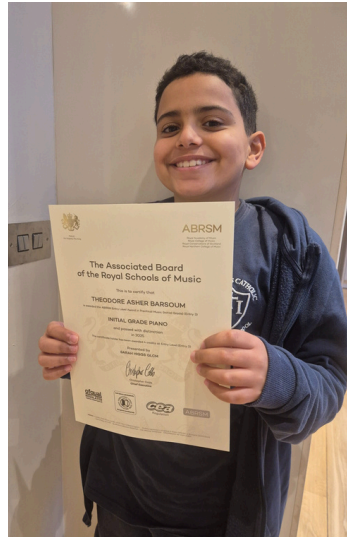
Let's Celebrate

We love to hear about your pupils' achievements both inside and outside of school.

- Congratulations to **Freddie M** (4P) for winning 'Man of the Match' last Saturday for his football team. His brother **Sebastian M** (1G) also won 'Man of the Match' for the first time for his team!
- Congratulations to **Theodore B** (5W) for passing his entry level piano exam with a Distinction
- Congratulations to **Joshua B** (10S) for passing Stage 1 in swimming lessons today. He is over the moon to be an orange hat now!
- Congratulations to **Isabella F** (Badgers) for receiving her first swimming certificate for moving from Level 1 to Level 2

If you would like your child's achievement to feature in the newsletter, please email the details along with a photograph to newsletter@st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk.

Miss Partington - Year 4 Class Teacher



Wake Up Wednesdays

Digital devices are woven into everyday life for children and young people, but balancing the benefits with potential risks can feel challenging. This #WakeUpWednesday guide explores how screen use can influence sleep, emotional regulation, physical health and online experiences, offering clear context around why concerns about wellbeing are growing.

Written with schools and families in mind, the guide shares practical, realistic advice for setting boundaries, encouraging open conversations and building digital literacy. With insights from an experienced mental health professional, it supports adults to help children develop healthier, more mindful relationships with technology.

Miss Partington - Year 4 Class Teacher

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DIGITAL DEVICES & WELLBEING

Children aged 7 to 14 now spend roughly 3 to 5 hours a day on phones, tablets, consoles, and computers. That much screen time has parents and educators worried – not just about the hours logged, but about online safety and the knock-on effects on mental health. This guide brings together practical, expert-backed strategies so adults can nurture healthier digital habits and help young people thrive both on and offline.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SLEEP DISRUPTION

Excessive screen time, especially before bed, can interfere with melatonin production and delay sleep onset. Children may struggle to concentrate or regulate emotions due to poor sleep hygiene linked to late-night device use.

ONLINE PEER PRESSURE

Social media platforms expose children to unrealistic standards and peer validation loops. Likes, comments, and follower counts can influence self-worth and lead to anxiety or risky behaviour to gain approval.

CYBERBULLYING EXPOSURE

Children may encounter bullying through messaging apps, games, or social media. This can be persistent and anonymous, making it harder to detect. Victims often feel isolated and reluctant to report incidents.

REDUCED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Time spent on screens often replaces outdoor play and physical activity. This sedentary lifestyle can contribute to obesity, poor posture, and reduced cardiovascular health.

EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION

Fast-paced digital content can overstimulate young brains. Children may become irritable, impatient, or struggle with boredom and emotional control when not engaged with screens.

PRIVACY AND SAFETY RISKS

Children may unknowingly share personal information or interact with strangers online. Without guidance, they may not understand the long-term consequences of digital footprints or unsafe online behaviour.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Establish screen-time limits and device-free zones, e.g. classrooms and dinner tables. Use parental controls and co-create a digital use agreement with children to encourage accountability. Trying a visual schedule or timer app can help children understand and stick to limits.

MODEL HEALTHY HABITS

Children mirror adult behaviour. Demonstrate balanced device use, take regular screen breaks, and prioritise face-to-face interactions to reinforce positive behaviours. Making a habit of putting your phone away during meals and conversations can show that real-life interactions come first.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE

Create a safe space for children to talk about their online experiences. Ask open-ended questions like, "What did you enjoy online today?" to build trust and awareness. Try setting aside 10 minutes each day for a digital check-in where children can share what they've seen or done online.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Teach children how to evaluate online content, recognise misinformation, and understand privacy settings. Empower them to think critically and act responsibly in digital spaces. You could use real-life examples from the news or social media to help children practise spotting fake information.

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provision.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Lunch Menu

Please see below next week's menu. Please discuss with your child their preferred lunch options and book via [IFG](#).

MENU WEEK 1		SERVED W/C: 27 th Oct 17 th Nov 8 th Dec 19 th Jan 9 th Feb 2 nd Mar 23 rd Mar 13 th Apr			Cucina IFG
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
MAIN MEAL	OPTION 1 Cheese & Bean Lasagne	Margherita Pizza & Wedges	Vegan Lentil & Stuffing Pastry Roll	BBQ Quorn & Peppers & Rice	Vegan Vegetable Nuggets & Chips
OPTION 2	Sticky Chinese Chicken & Vegetable Rice	Traditional Creamy Beef Lasagne	Roast Gammon with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chicken in a Katsu Curry Sauce & Rice	MSC Approved Fish Fingers & Chips
VEGGIES	Carrots & Peas	Broccoli	Roasted Carrots & Parsnips	Peas	Beans
PASTA	Cheese Sauce	House Tomato Sauce	Cheese Sauce	House Tomato Sauce	Creamy Pesto
FILLED ROLLS	Ham Cheese	Chicken Egg	Ham Cheese	Tuna Mayo Cheese	Egg Cheese
AVAILABLE EVERY DAY Our crunchy colourful salad & jacket potatoes with cheese, beans, tuna mayo or cheese and beans					
SWEET TREATS	Blueberry Cookie Bar	Chocolate & Banana Brownie	Strawberry Yoghurt & Strawberry Sauce	Apple & Cocoa Sponge	Raspberry Jelly
Desserts available every day - a choice of jelly, fruit or yoghurt					

KEY Nutritionist's Choice
 Vegetarian (green leaf icon) Vegan (green leaf icon) Added Wholewheat (wheat stalk icon)

Key Term Dates

Monday 19th January - Cultures Week (all week)

Monday 19th January - Years 1-6 Flamenco Workshop

Wednesday 21st January - Cultures Exhibition

Thursday 22nd January - Year 5 Parent Assembly

Friday 23rd January - Year 4 Mass

Friday 23rd January - Celebration of Cultures (**children can wear traditional clothing or colours to represent their culture on this day**)

Friday 30th January - Celebration Afternoon @ 2.45pm (parents invited)

Monday 9th February - Year 5 Rose Theatre Trip

Tuesday 10th January - Year 5 Tudor Workshops (in class)

Wednesday 4th February - SEND Coffee Morning (parents invited)

Friday 13th February - Wellbeing Exhibition

Friday 13th February - Year 3 Mass

Friday 13th February - End of Half Term

**JOIN OUR
HERO SQUAD
THIS HALF TERM!**



FUNWEEKS

FEBRUARY HALF TERM ACTIVE CAMP

BOOK ONLINE:
WWW.THEPSDGROUP.ORG.UK

EARLY BIRD PRICING:

BOOK BEFORE
MIDDAY ON
11TH FEB
£25.00

BOOK AFTER
MIDDAY ON
11TH FEB
£26.50

**EPIC SPORTS!
SUPERHERO CRAFTS!**

**PRIZES!
CHALLENGES!
10% SIBLING
DISCOUNT!**



ST IGNATIUS PRIMARY SCHOOL

MONDAY 16TH - FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 26

9AM - 3PM • £25.00 PER DAY
FOR CHILDREN IN YEARS 1 - 7



SCAN TO BOOK



0203 397 7409

info@thepsdgroup.org.uk

thepsdgroupuk

www.thepsdgroup.org.uk

Parents Supporting Parents

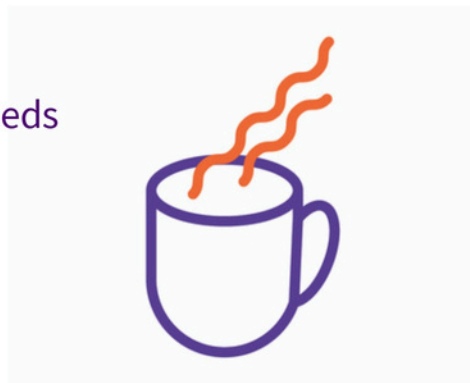
By volunteering just a few hours each week you can transform the lives of young children and their parents in your community.



As a Home-Start volunteer you could make a BIG difference to a local family

If you are a parent, a carer, or maybe a grandparent, you know just how tough family life can be at times. And we know it too. Our volunteers, who have parenting experience, help families with all sorts of problems, from the everyday to the overwhelming. Challenges such as:

- Loneliness and isolation
- Relationship difficulties
- Multiple children under 5
- Ill health, disability or special needs
- Lone parenting
- Coping with bereavement
- Mental health
- Children's behaviour



**Our next training course starts Tuesday
29th January, sign up today!**



What do volunteers actually do?

Our volunteers will usually visit a parent in their home once a week for a couple of hours. How they help is really down to the needs of the family. Some might need a sympathetic ear, a shoulder to cry on, someone to have a laugh with. Others may need help keeping appointments or accessing local services and connecting with their local community. Our volunteers can provide an extra pair of hands to help people cope with everyday parenting situations, or practical help with activities like playing or reading stories.

Home-Start's approach is very personal and friendly and this often reassures parents that what they're going through is not unusual, that they are not alone.

I started volunteering with Home-Start in March 2024 & I have loved every minute. I first thought I'd struggle with the commitment because life can be busy and ever changing, but with good communication with your family you can work around both of your schedules, really making it the most rewarding volunteering I've done. If you're considering volunteering, I really do encourage you to go for it, not only will you change the life of a family in need, but you'll also learn new things & meet some lovely people along the way.



“Grateful to have been supported by this fantastic charity! So selfless and special! Helped me through tough times and gave me confidence in my parenting. My children adored the volunteer and were sad when our time ended with them”

Contact us to find out more!

01784 463 200

info@home-startspelthorne.org

www.home-startspelthorne.org



Safeguarding

Governors and staff of St Ignatius share an objective to help keep children safe by:

- Providing a safe environment for them to learn
- Identifying children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and taking appropriate action.

Please read through the safeguarding guidance documents on this page, which include those designed for children. Please contact the Designated Safeguarding Leads below should you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child.

You can do this by calling the school directly, or emailing: dsl@st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk

You can also find out more about how we teach safety to children on our [Safety Curriculum](#) page, in the Curriculum section of the website.

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL):

Mrs E O'Neill - Deputy Headteacher

DEPUTY DSL:

Ms H Murphy - Headteacher

Miss T Frew - Assistant Headteacher

Mrs I Barkworth - SENDCo

Mrs L Whittington - KS2 Lead

Miss Z Palmer - KS1 Lead

Any concerns can be discussed with a DSL. If you have any concerns that involve the Headteacher, please contact the **Ascension Catholic Academy Trust** via email at admin@ascensioncat.org or by telephone on 0208 325 4630. The LGB details are being updated.

You can read our **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy** [here](#).

Contact Us

St Ignatius Catholic Primary School
Green Street, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 6QG

Telephone: 01932 785396

Email: admin@st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk

Website: www.st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk

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