



Holy Family Catholic School & Sixth Form

Headteacher: Mrs C Laws BA Hons



ASPIRE TO THE HOLY FAMILY WAY

'Aspire not to have more, but to be more.' Oscar Romero

9th May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you following the tragic incident last week in Walthamstow when yet another young person lost their life to knife crime. This is a national issue of grave concern to parents, educators and political leaders alike, and it is a sad truth that young people in cities are disproportionately affected.

There are a number of schools in close proximity in the borough and it is therefore not unusual for Holy Family students and staff to be affected by incidents that happen at or near other schools.

I want to reassure you that I and my senior team, as well as all our colleagues, are committed to ensuring that your child is safe whilst at school and that they know how to stay safe on their way to and from school. We work very closely with local police to make sure that when appropriate, there is a police presence at both the upper and lower sites. Senior staff are on hand at the end of school every day to ensure that students make their way quickly home. Staff are also on duty at bus stops and in the local area.

This afternoon, because of the recent incident, we liaised with safer schools officers to ensure that police attended at the end of the day on both sites so that students felt safe.

We will be holding a series of assemblies this week to reiterate important safeguarding messages. The key messages that I would urge you to go over with your child are as follows:

- Go directly home after school each day, without loitering in the local area
- Selborne Walk and McDonalds are out of bounds to Holy Family students whilst in our uniform; if found there, they will be sanctioned

Walthamstow House Site

1 Shernhall Street, London E17 3EA

Mr P Murphy BSc Hons
Deputy Headteacher & Head of Lower School

Tel: 020 8520 0482 **Web:** www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk

Wiseman House Site

30-34 Shernhall Street, London E17 9RT

Mr J Gharu BA Hons
Deputy Headteacher & Head of Upper School

Tel: 020 8520 3587 **Email:** office@hollyfamily.waltham.sch.uk



- Report anyone you do not know adding you on social media, and do not respond to any requests for you to get involved in issues concerning others
- Report to an adult immediately if you experience any harassment, threats or intimidation on social media
- Do not react to gossip or rumours - these are often an attempt to start trouble
- If you are approached by another young person trying to become friends or offering money or gifts, make your excuses and leave

I would also urge parents to be vigilant to any signs that your child could be open to harmful influences:

- They return later than they should after school
- They have unexplained money or expensive items and cannot tell you where they got them from
- They become withdrawn or secretive and spend more time than usual isolated and/or on their phone or laptop
- You notice new friends appearing on their social media or phones, that you are unaware of - this is particularly important if these are older than your child

It is crucial that we work together to keep all of our children and young people safe and happy both in and out of school.

If you or your child have any concerns, or have been affected by any of the recent incidents in the local area, please do not hesitate to contact the school for advice.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Laws". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Carolyn Laws
Headteacher