



## St. Edmund's & St. Patrick's R.C. Primary Schools, Voluntary Academies



St. Edmund's R.C. Primary School  
Upper Monsall Street  
Miles Platting  
Manchester  
M40-8NG  
Tel: 0161-205-1700

St. Patrick's R.C. Primary School  
Livesey Street  
Collyhurst  
Manchester  
M4-5HF  
Tel: 0161-834-9004

20<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

At St Edmund's and St Patrick's schools, we are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of every pupil. This term, both schools will access workshops, facilitated by the NSPCC. As part of this work, we want to provide clear information about physical chastisement, particularly as it relates to home environments, and how the law and our safeguarding responsibilities guide our work.

### **What is Physical Chastisement?**

Physical chastisement refers to the use of physical force with the intention of disciplining a child. This can include actions such as smacking or hitting. It is important to understand that while some may see this as a form of discipline at home, the law around physical punishment is clear and protective of children's rights.

### **Legal Context of Physical Chastisement at Home**

- The law prohibits the use of physical punishment that causes harm or injury to a child.
- Parents and carers are responsible for their child's welfare at home, but there are legal limits to physical chastisement.
- If a child suffers harm or is at risk of harm due to physical chastisement, this may be considered a safeguarding concern.
- Local authorities have the power to investigate and take action if physical punishment crosses the line into abuse or neglect.
- In serious cases, legal proceedings can be initiated, and parents may be prosecuted, with cases heard in Magistrates Courts. This process involves formal notifications and opportunities for parents to respond, as guided by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act and Equality Act.

### **Our School's Safeguarding Role**

- While physical chastisement at home is outside of school control, we have a duty under Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) to safeguard all pupils.
- If staff become aware or suspect that a pupil is being physically harmed at home, we follow strict safeguarding procedures to ensure the child's safety.



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- This may involve offering support, liaising with families, or making referrals to appropriate external agencies.
- We encourage parents to seek positive and non-physical ways to manage behaviour and to reach out if support is needed.
- Supporting Families
- We understand that parenting can be challenging and we are here to help.
- If you or your family need support, please contact the Manchester Early Help Team on 0161 234 1973. They provide early intervention services to help families overcome difficulties.
- For advice and guidance on positive parenting, the NSPCC website offers valuable resources: Positive Parenting.

If you need assistance accessing these services or other family support, please contact Mr McMahon, Miss Byrne, Miss Loughrey or Mrs Shaw, who are all here to help. You can also speak to your child's class teacher.

Together, we can create a safe, nurturing environment for all our pupils to thrive. Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping St Edmund's and St Patrick's a safe and supportive community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mr McMahon".

Mr McMahon