

6 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Important Message on Safeguarding

As a school community we want our students to feel safe and thrive so that they can be 'fully ALIVE' living out our school values through their actions. One of our ALIVE values is, 'We Value Ourselves'. Students can embody this value by keeping themselves and those around them safe. This is particularly important when using our toilets.

At SMRT we are fortunate to have excellent facilities which are very well maintained by our premises team. This includes our provision of toilets, with at least one toilet block on every floor with lockable dedicated male, female and disabled cubicles within each. The facilities are regularly checked and cleaned by our premises team before, during and after the school day.

It is important that all students are clear that each of these toilet cubicles are designed for single occupancy only. **Under no circumstances should more than one student enter a toilet cubicle at the same time.** This is essential in terms of safeguarding for the following reasons:

- Entering a toilet cubicle, or indeed any confined lockable space, with another person places them at risk of harm. It is not possible to supervise students in such situations and should anything happen, immediate intervention would not be possible
- Anyone entering a toilet cubicle with another person is extremely vulnerable to any allegation. This puts them both at risk.
- The cubicles are physically designed for single occupancy. Should a medical emergency occur with more than one person inside the ability to gain access would be severely impeded putting students at risk.

We recognise that students may not fully appreciate the risks of entering toilet cubicles together and appreciate your support in discussing this with your child, reminding them that they will be sanctioned if they choose to do this. The list below explains how we will sanction students for multiple occupancy in toilet cubicles.

- First occasion – All students involved will be given an after-school detention. During this they will complete a reflection activity. Parents will be informed.
- Second occasion – All students involved will be referred to 'Reflect and Reset' for a full day. During this time, they will complete a more extended intervention regarding the safeguarding implications and a formal letter will be written to parents/carers. –The students' discipline stages will also be reviewed.
- Third occasion – Referral to the Headteacher for possible suspension from school. The student and parents/carers will be required to attend a meeting in school with a member of the safeguarding team to further discuss the risks and create a support plan to address the

behaviours of concern. The students' Discipline stages will also be reviewed and students involved will be placed on a minimum of Discipline Stage B.

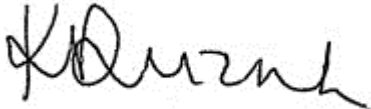
- Persistent multiple occupancy of toilet cubicles or any other unsupervised space - the school will utilise the full extent of the Discipline Stage system as explained within our 'Behaviour and Good Relationships' policy. This may put their place at SMRT at risk.

Here is a link to our Policies page and our Behaviour and Good Relationships Policy which has further information about our Discipline Stages.

<https://www.smrt.bristol.sch.uk/key-information/policies>

We would be grateful if you could discuss this with your child(ren) to ensure that they are absolutely clear on the risks and consequences of entering toilet cubicles/unsupervised confined spaces with another person and the possible consequences.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Duzniak', written in a cursive style.

Mrs K. Duzniak
Interim Deputy Headteacher (Behaviour, Inclusion and Ethos)