



Safeguarding Update

October 2018

Issue 8

The Importance of Keeping in Touch

BBC News featured the tragic story of teacher, Helen Daykin. In October 2016, Helen was working away from home when her husband, Chris, died suddenly whilst looking after their young children. After his sudden death, Helen's little girls, aged 4 & 2, spent almost 24 hours with the body of their father. The older girl had recently started school, and when she didn't arrive, the school rang their father, to no avail. Tragically, they didn't then follow up with a call to the girls' mother, 200 miles away in London. The alarm wasn't raised until tea-time when Chris' mother visited the home. Helen is telling her heart-breaking story to raise awareness of the importance of first-day calls, and maintaining up-to-date records of two or three phone numbers which schools can phone when children do not attend. Helen's campaign is being supported by bereavement charity, The Good Grief Trust.

At Worpleston, we will do everything we can to prevent such situations occurring: your child's safety is paramount to us all.

Remember:

- If your child is not going to be in school please call the school office before 9am to report their absence.
- If we have not heard from you by 9.30am we will attempt to contact you by phone. We will continue to call the telephone numbers in order on your child's contact list.
- If we still haven't been able to get a response then we will report it to the police as your child will then be classed as a 'missing child'. This is to ensure that we know where your child is and that you are all safe.

Please let us know in good time why your child is absent from school.

Home alone - what are the rules?

Parents often ask about the "rules" on leaving a child alone at home. The law doesn't specify an age when a child can be left alone. It is an offence if leaving a child alone at home puts them at risk. The legal position is based on the Children and Young Persons Act 1933. If a parent leaves a child unsupervised "in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to health" they can be prosecuted for neglect. Apart from when a school is in "loco parentis", the parent is accountable at all times for the safety and welfare of their child. This includes which babysitter to choose.

The Child Law website is helpful as a pointer for parents who are struggling to make up their minds about this.

The NSPCC website has useful information on this issue.

NSPCC

Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board

Call us on
01372 833330

"To be young is heaven." Is that really true?

The Mental Health Foundation's Mental Health Awareness Week focussed on stress this year. They say that, although stress is not a mental health problem itself, it often leads to depression, anxiety, self-harm and even suicide.

The NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) offers support and advice for professionals, parents and carers, and young people who have difficulties with their emotional or behavioural wellbeing.

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk>

The World Health Organisation recognises World Mental Health Day on 10 October every year.

Childline
0800 11 11

What is a young carer?

A definition of a Young Carer:

We're under 18 and provide unpaid help and support for someone with a long term physical disability, mental health condition or problems with drugs and alcohol.

