

## National agenda for safeguarding and local response in LS29 area

The national safeguarding agenda has been prioritised over the last academic year with schools being tasked to ensure that pupils and staff are kept safe. In Ofsted inspections that have taken place this academic year, the safeguarding requirements of schools have been heightened and many schools have had their perimeter fencing checked. It is a requirement that the Governors do a regular site inspection to ensure that the boundary is secure and that they have done everything possible to ensure the safety of their pupils.

Local primary schools (all LS29 postcodes) have responded to this in a number of ways:

- One local school had the public right of way which ran through their grounds diverted to the outside of the grounds in 1979. In July 2017, their planning application to install a 3m fence around the school grounds was granted by Bradford Council. They are looking to create a secure single point of access to the site during school hours with gates at the top of school, bottom playground and by the on-site nursery which could be used in an emergency as they have double width openings. They will be restricting entry and exit points to a few easily monitored areas and limiting access to areas that are not highly visible. Their school site is very large so they are currently in discussion with the funding team from Bradford Council to fund the cost of the works (September 2017).
- One local school is securing the back of their grounds with a 2m fence and are putting up a new fence at the front of the school including a new entrance system which will employ a buzzer system (works to be completed in October 2017). This work is to be funded from the school budget.
- Following an external review in September 2016, one local school identified that the school perimeter is not secure. The low wall, low fence and gaps in the hedge were a concern: children were highly visible and accessible; children could leave the site unnoticed and intruders could enter the site. The school immediately fenced the site and restricted access by having one point of entry with a buzzer system. This was funded by Bradford Council.
- One local school have fenced all round the field at rear of school, down the side by the beck and around the playgrounds (backing onto housing). Their only gap is at very front because of planning issues, however they have put in an internal fence to stop visitors at night. This has been funded from the school budget over a number of years.
- One local school have fenced off over 100 metres of their site since 2014. This allows them to use their fields safely during the day as they focus on outdoor learning as a unique feature of our school offer. Without the fencing the children would be at risk of leaving the site unaccompanied or even being taken. The fence also allows their after school club children greater freedom to use our lovely site for gardening, sports or other activities. They also have had pupils who would abscond when upset, putting themselves in danger. This stopped once the fencing was installed. In 2014 they had 32 laptops stolen from their ICT suite two weeks before the start of the school year. Since having the perimeter fence they have not had a break in. This has been funded from the school budget.

Two schools had fences installed when the school was first built, therefore have not have to respond to the challenges of an open site.

