



St Thomas Becket

Catholic Primary School

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London SE25 5BN

Headteacher
Noel Campbell

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20th January 2022

Ref: Incident travelling home- Yr 6 child

Dear parent/carer,

On Wednesday afternoon, after school, one of our Year 6 children was approached by a group of 3 secondary aged boys, whilst travelling home alone. The incident occurred near the junction of Portland Road and Spring Lane.

Whilst the Year 6 child was making her way to the bus stop, one of the boys pulled out a knife from his pocket and threatened the child. Thankfully, an adult who was waiting at the bus stop intervened, chased the boys away and comforted the child. The child was physically unharmed but naturally frightened and distressed. This incident has been reported to the police. Today we have reinforced key messages to the children about travelling home without an adult and how to stay safe on their journey home. I know parents will already have had these discussions with their child if they are starting to make their way home alone.

It is important that children begin to gain independence in travelling home in Year 6 in preparation for the transition to secondary school, however in light of this incident you may wish to review how your child travels to and from school. Where possible children should be travelling as part of a group for as much of the journey as is practicable. I would always recommend that parents test their child's route home to check that it is the safest possible option and identify any issues with travelling on public transport.

As a school, we are shocked that such a terrifying incident has occurred to a child and we will be speaking to the police and seeking support in keeping our children safe on their daily journeys.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N Campbell
Headteacher