



# St. Michael's Church of England Primary School



Carlisle Road, Dalston, Carlisle, Cumbria CA5 7LN · Tel: 01228 711544 · Headteacher: Mrs J Paisley  
*Our school values: Respect · Kindness · Challenge · Forgiveness · Perseverance*

2 November 2020

Dear Parents

One of our main priorities here at St. Michael's is the Safeguarding of our children and we are constantly looking at ways to maintain this. For some time, we have explored the possibility of additional fencing, including around the school playing field. It is, of course, a balance between feeling unconfined and security, not to mention an expensive undertaking and is thus not a decision to be taken lightly. However, the fact that our field is surrounded on three sides by a public footpath and a busy road has led us to view this as a priority.

In addition, you will recall I contacted you recently regarding the vandalism to our play equipment and gazebo. Unfortunately, since then we have had further incidents of anti-social behaviour on the field at evenings and weekends. The urgency of installing a new fence has been increased by the need to protect the recent investments and planned future developments made to enrich our children's outdoor space.

We have explored a range of possibilities for making the school grounds more secure and therefore safer for our children. CCTV has proved to be prohibitively expensive and we have been advised any footage we gained from it would be of little value anyway.

We have therefore made the decision to go ahead and erect a fence around the school field to match the Caldew School fencing and this will be locked overnight. This will provide us with an excellent level of safeguarding and security through the day and also help to keep the area and equipment secure overnight. I am beyond disappointed at having to take this step, but the Governors and I could see no alternative course of action. Certainly, taking no action was not an option as we cannot afford to continue to fund repairs and are becoming increasingly concerned about some of the high-risk behaviour that is going on out of school hours.

Work will begin on the new fence within the next few weeks.

We currently plan to have the field accessible straight after school for a time and also through the day at the weekend. If any community groups are interested in using the field this can be arranged and all enquiries should be directed to the school office.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Paisley  
Headteacher