



PRESS RELEASE

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Over 2,000 UK Schools sign up for the Safe School Charter

The most recent MORI Youth Survey shows that more than one in ten schoolchildren has been physically attacked.

Today (16th October) is National Personal Safety Day and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust has announced that so far over 2,200 schools around the country have already signed up for the Safe School Charter, which was launched by the charity in May of this year.

Chief Executive of the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, Julie Bentley, says:

“By signing up to the Charter, these schools are showing their commitment to putting the safety of everyone connected with the school – teachers, pupils and visitors – to the forefront of their agenda.”

The aim of the Safe School Charter is to support schools in the bid to become safer places for those who work and learn in them. Promoting the benefits of developing appropriate policies and procedures for improving personal safety, the Charter also encourages schools to spend more time teaching children about personal safety, including how to defuse violence and aggression.

Comedienne, Jo Brand, says:

“As every parent knows, nothing is more important than the safety of your child and nothing is more terrifying than the thought that they might suffer from violence. There is no denying that it’s a violent world out there so that leaves you with two choices – wrap them in cotton wool until they’re 35 or teach them safe independence. I’m with the Suzy Lamplugh Trust on choosing the latter, which is why I have become a patron of the charity and I am fully supporting their new Safe Schools Charter. Being able to avoid violence and aggression is a life skill that can be learnt and I strongly believe that every child in the country should be given the opportunity to learn it in school.”

But it is not just pupils who will benefit. Patrick Nash, Chief Executive of Teacher Support Network who are supporting the Charter, says:

“Teacher Support Network is promoting the Suzy Lamplugh Safe Schools Charter as we believe schools, their pupils and staff should have information on how to take responsibility for their own safety.

“In 2005 more than 100,000 teachers and lecturers contacted us via our telephone and online support services. From these calls and emails, we know that whilst violent incidents are still a rarity many teachers feel worried about the possibility of this happening.”

Teacher Support Network contacted 173 teachers about their experiences of abuse in schools. 84 per cent of these teachers had been verbally abused, 29 per cent had been physically assaulted and 38 per cent had had their property vandalised. In 63 per cent of cases, respondents said that pupil aggression and unruliness would force them to consider leaving the profession.

Schools that sign up to the Charter receive a pack which contains lesson plans as well as lots of suggestions and ideas for head teachers to consider that will help make their school a safer place.

There is no deadline for signing up to the Charter. If you would like more information about it, please telephone 020 7091 0014 or visit <http://www.suzylamplugh.org/anniversary/safeschools.shtml>

Ends

For Media Enquiries contact our press officer, Jo Walker, on 07747 611308 or email her at jo.walker@suzylamplugh.org

Notes to Editors:

1. An online survey was conducted by Teacher Support Network February 2 to March 18 2005. The total number of teachers who took part was 173. The age range of the respondents was 21-60. Thirty-nine per cent of the respondents were male and 61 per cent were female.

CHARTER WORDING attached
POSTER attached
ACTIVITY PACK for Schools attached

Additional Quotes:

“Recognising the personal safety benefits of mobile phones, the Trust has helped O2 promote clear, sound advice to our customers, many of whom are parents, over a number of years. We are therefore delighted to lend our support to the Safe School Charter – another vital initiative to protect the vulnerable, particularly the young.” **Simon Davis, Head of Corporate Responsibility, O2 (sponsors of the Safe School Charter)**

“I welcome the National Personal Safety Day run by Suzy Lamplugh Trust and congratulate them on this initiative which has captured the interest and imagination of so many schools.

“If young people feel safe at schools, they will achieve more and there is less chance of getting into trouble. Many schools do excellent work on personal safety

and in helping children learn how to deal with risk. The best examples are where young people, staff, parents and community groups work together to achieve a common purpose. For example, schools which are a part of Safer Schools Partnerships have shown how police and school communities can make a **real** impact on the safety of young people." **Graham Robb, Board Member, Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and former Secondary School Headteacher**

"Everyone worries about their children's safety and how to make sure they are still safe when they are not with them. The Safe Schools Charter aims to ensure that every child in the UK is properly taught about personal safety."
Andrew "Freddie" Flintoff

"To get the most out of their time at school, young people have to be able to feel safe and it is also really important that they know how to avoid violence and aggression. I think every school should be signing up to the Suzy Lamplugh Trust's Safe Schools Charter."
Angela Griffin

"I'm delighted to be supporting the Suzy Lamplugh Trust's Safe School Charter. Every child should have the right to go through their school years without the fear of violence and aggression and all schools should be signing up to the charter to show that they intend to keep the safety of their pupils at the top of their agenda."
Fiona Phillips

"The day my twin sons went to school on the bus terrified me. Suddenly my two 11 year olds were out in the world on their own. As parents we can give them some common sense, but as a community we could be much stonger. I'm with the Suzy Lamplugh Trust."
Fern Britton

"All schools should be signing up to the charter to show that they intend to keep the safety of their pupils at the top of their agenda."
Gary Lineker

"Every child should have the right to go through their school years without the fear of violence and aggression."
Kim Wilde

"Every parent worries about their children's safety and how to make sure they are safe when they are not with them. The Safe Schools Charter aims to ensure that every child in the UK is properly taught about personal safety - a vital life skill yet something that is not recognised as such. Personal safety awareness should be at the top of agenda for anyone or any body concerned with child welfare."
Arabella Weir



Safe Schools
Activity Pack.pdf...



Charter
wording.doc (24 KB)



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