



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you with regards to the ICE CATS Program... Your school has decided to use the program to help support staff and children in school to learn how to respond to evacuation, invacuation and lockdown procedures. These are things that legislation requires schools to be planning for and implementing... And with Martyn's Law being a legal requirement from April 2027 for premises with more than 200 people on site, we pride ourselves on knowing that our training not only meets but exceeds the expected standard.

I am a Liverpool resident with children of my own, my youngest being 14YRS of age. I have been in school governance for 24 years and I am fortunate to have a background in security and education. I have used my experience to create a simple 30minute session that is a fun and active lesson, it works with curriculum and teaches children to respond to guidance in a worst-case scenario situation. Whilst as a parent myself, I understand the dangers we face in modern society are very real. I acknowledge the chance of this happening here in school is very slim, but ... What If...!!!

By teaching young children and adults to respond, with simple international commands and signals, it will become second nature and may very well save lives. They are a life skill that can be used in any environment outside school, but also in any country you may visit. I would like to stress that at NO point guns, knives, bombs or terrorism are mentioned in the training with children. But should children have questions about their safety they will be answered tactfully or privately with teachers and parents. As a parent I entrust the safety of my children to the school they are assigned and believe that school is an extension of family that they will care for my children with the same care and diligence I would provide myself...

Currently we are facing unprecedented times, safety and provision of care being the utmost priority in education, but due to Martyn's Law gaining Royal assent in April this year, we have 2-years until it is passed by parliament to be implemented April 2027. The law looks at Lockdown response in accordance with terrorism activity foreign or domestic and any setting with more than 200 people on site must have a suitable system in place regarding risk management and risk escalation. ICECATS is tailored for children, before and through COVID 19, incorporating new global threats, and I can assure you, this has no impact on training or how it has been delivered for the last ten years.

I welcome any questions and feedback... I understand parents and care givers feel unsure of this situation and guidelines currently available and I believe that transparency of the program is of the utmost importance, I will be available at school on; Wed 21st / Thurs 22nd January or you can also contact me anytime by phone, messenger, WhatsApp or email.

Kindest regards

Jo Carter (Executive Director)

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