



Damage at Aspire



Dear Parents & Carers

We wanted to write to you at the start of a new school year to highlight the difficulties caused when we experience a high level of damage.

We try to ensure that we give our children the best experiences, opportunities and school environment in which to learn. We want our children to be proud to say they go to Aspire and to give them a sense of belonging that they may not have felt in their previous schools. In these challenging financial times, I know you will all appreciate the rising costs of the specialist equipment and classroom resources that we provide and also the trips, reward treats, workshops, extra curricular clubs and activities. Over the summer we redecorated the corridors in our old building and bought new display boards so that we can celebrate the wonderful work the children achieve.

We absolutely understand that our children struggle to regulate their emotions at times and can have explosive outbursts and we know that accidents do happen. We also know that for some children breaking things and damage are their go to behaviours. Obviously, when things are broken, damaged or destroyed we have to repair or replace these things either because we need them to run our school or to make our environment safe. Mr Garrett, our site manager, works tirelessly repairing, repainting and making things safe for the children but sometimes we have to call in specialist contractors to do the work or replace things like windows. I'm sure you wouldn't have been very impressed with the school if there were broken windows, doors and graffiti on our walls when you came to visit!

Paying for damage, breakages and contractors significantly impacts on our already tight budget and will mean that we can't afford to provide the extra resources and fun activities that the children enjoy. Contrary to popular belief we do not have insurance for these occasions but interestingly we do have a regular contract with a window supplier!! Just for your information a broken window costs us at least £500 to replace. We have to buy our furniture and resources from specialist suppliers which makes everything much more expensive than you might think. Despite the fact that the start to our term has been settled and calm we have already managed to rack up an amazing £2000 worth of damage caused by children.

We speak to the children regularly in assemblies and individually about the impact of damage and us not being able to afford the nice things and ask that you talk to them too. As you know we also work constantly with the children on strategies for managing and regulating their behaviour safely.



Wherever possible as part of the reparation work when an incident occurs the children are helped to put things right. For some damage though, it is not possible to clean it or fix it and we then need to pay to repair or replace. Our policy at Aspire is to ask parents for a contribution to the costs of any damage deliberately caused by their child. We will let you know the cost of the damage to the school and ask you for a contribution. We always try all we can to avoid this but at times it is unavoidable.

If we all work together we can keep our school safe and looking great and keep providing the fun and exciting opportunities that the children love and deserve. Thank you for your support.

Mrs Arkwright