

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, keeping our children safe is our main priority and is the key shared responsibility of EVERYONE who comes into contact with our children.

All staff have a crucial role to play in shaping the lives of young people and are accountable for the way in which they exercise authority, manage risk, use resources and protect pupils from discrimination and avoidable harm.

At St Mary's we value and recognise that children maximise their potential in an environment which is safe, secure and supportive of all their needs, including any needs they have for protection from abuse.

At St Mary's we will do all we can to ensure that:

- The welfare of the child remains paramount.
- All children whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/ or sexual identity have the right to be protected from harm.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All staff and volunteers working at our school have a responsibility to report concerns to the designated Safeguarding Leads

Our Safeguarding Policies cover all areas of school life and include:

- Staff & Visitors- ensuring they are vetted, informed & trained.
- Children's Behaviour- promoting safer & happier behaviours & lifestyles.
- Parents & Carers- promoting links & supporting families.
- Premises -keeping them safe, pleasant & fit for purpose.
- Curriculum -providing positive, life affirming learning experiences.
- Outside School- ensuring safer activities and environments outside school

Further information is detailed in our **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**

Staff Responsibility

The Designated Staff for Safeguarding at St Mary's are as follows:

Mrs Helen Tomlinson Head Teacher (Safeguarding Lead)

Mrs Katie Bleasdale Deputy Head Teacher (Deputy Safeguarding Lead)

Mrs Jane Moore Office Manager (Deputy Safeguarding Lead)

Mr Henry Verhees Year 2 teacher (Acting Deputy Safeguarding Lead)

Recruitment and Training

We follow strict procedures to ensure that everyone who works with our children is vetted, keeping our children as safe as possible. Ongoing checks and 'whistle-blowing' are in line with current policy. Further information is detailed in our **Safer Recruitment Policy**

Staff Training

- Staff are trained in Child Protection issues and they are aware of the procedures to follow.
- Safeguarding Team attend Designated Safeguarding Training and also complete E Learning in Safeguarding.
- Mrs Tomlinson, our Safeguarding Lead, attends Safeguarding Briefings and Training Events throughout the school year.
- Staff are encouraged to be vigilant in order to maintain the safety of all our children.
- All Staff & Volunteers are given a copy of our Staff Handbook and are directed to the document 'KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION SEPTEMBER 2023'. Staff sign to acknowledge they have received, read and understood this document. Staff are regularly updated with Safeguarding Messages and our Safeguarding Team meet with our Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Tomlinson, to discuss direct case management and coordinate support for children and families.
- Visiting staff to our school also receive a Safeguarding Leaflet that demonstrates our commitment to sharing Safeguarding Procedures with them.

Information Sharing

We have an obligation to obtain necessary information from parents in advance of a child being admitted to school, including:

- emergency contact numbers;
- the child's special dietary requirements, preferences or food allergies the child may have;
- the child's special health requirements;
- information about who has legal contact with the child; and who has parental responsibility for the child.

Written parental permission is requested, at the time of the child's admission to our school, to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS & CARERS TO TELL US OF ANY CHANGES TO THESE DETAILS.

We take confidentiality very seriously. Any information which we hold is treated as confidential and shared on a 'need-to-know' basis.

Further information is detailed in our **Data Protection Policy**.

Links with External Agencies

Our first concern is the well-being of your child and there may be occasions when we have to consult other agencies **before** we contact you. The procedures we have to follow have been laid down in accordance with the Local Authority Child Protection procedures.

Reporting Concerns and Complaints

We have in place a School Complaints Policy. This enables children, staff and carers to report anything they feel is of concern.

Concerns should be raised in the following order.

1. To the Class Teacher. Then, if there is no resolution;
2. To the Head Teacher. Then, if there is no resolution;
3. To the Chairman of Governors. Then, if there is no resolution;
4. To the Local Authority.

Contact details are available from the school office.

Further information is detailed in our **Complaints Policy**

Review of Policy and Practice

In order to ensure that best practice is maintained, our policies are reviewed at least annually to incorporate the latest statutory guidance.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is committed to promoting the welfare of all children by working in partnership with parents and carers, the Local Authority (LA) and multi-agency partners in Early Help and Child Protection, in accordance with locally agreed Local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements and Procedures.

Our Safeguarding Policy applies to members of the school community in its widest sense. This includes children and young people, their parents/carers, school staff, governors, visitors, specialist staff and the local and wider community where they interface with the school. Within its framework, the policy outlines entitlements and responsibilities in securing the protection of children who attend our school.

To emphasise the caring ethos of St Mary's School staff and governors are committed to the following principles:-

- The welfare and well-being of each child is of paramount importance.
- Our policy works on the premise that abuse takes place in all communities and that school staff are particularly well-placed to identify and refer concerns and also to act to prevent children and young people from being abused.
- We respect and value each child as an individual.
- We are a listening school, and encourage an environment where children feel free to talk, knowing that they will be listened to.
- The protection of children from abuse is a whole-school issue, and the responsibility therefore of the entire school community.
- Our policy should be accessible in terms of understanding and availability. Regular training will ensure all adults in school are aware of indicators of concern or abuse and the names of our Designated Safeguarding Lead and Safeguarding Staff that such information should be promptly passed on to.
- We will use the school curriculum to teach children how they can protect themselves from abuse, both as victims and as potential perpetrators.

Through the implementation of our Safeguarding Policy we aim to create and maintain a **caring ethos** where all children and adults feel safe, secure and valued.

We believe if children feel happy and enjoy school this will encourage good attendance and then create conditions in which they can do their best in every area of school life.

Working with parents and carers

Our school believes in effective communication with parents and carers. We welcome parent/carer views and concerns about the welfare of their children and use this feedback to regularly review our practices. Parental views are obtained in the following ways: surveys, questionnaires, parents' evenings, school events, at the school gate etc.

We aim to have good working relationships with parents and carers and to work in partnership with them through transparency and honesty.