

# ST JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## SAFEGUARDING POLICY

<b>Ratification Date:</b>		<b>Signed:</b>  Margaret Roberts (HEAD TEACHER)  Christopher Johnson (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)
<b>Review date:</b>		<b>Signed:</b>  Margaret Roberts (HEAD TEACHER)  Christopher Johnson (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)
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### **Safeguarding Statement**

At St.John Vianney Catholic Primary School we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at St.John Vianney Catholic Primary School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

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## 1. **Statement of Purpose**

At St.John Vianney Catholic Primary School, we are determined to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to protect children, young people and adults from harm. The following policy establishes the school's position, role and responsibilities and clarifies what is expected from everybody employed and involved in the delivery of services (core curriculum and extended services). It is the aim of this policy to support the 5 outcomes previously outlined in the former government Every Child Matters strategy. As such, this policy promotes:

### **Being Healthy**

- Ensuring that pupils are able to remain mentally and emotionally healthy;
- Supporting parents in keeping their children healthy;
- Supporting staff through well-being initiatives.

### **Staying Safe**

- Ensuring that pupils are safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation;
- Keeping pupils safe from accidental injury and death;
- Working with agencies to safeguard children in accordance with current government guidance;
- Support staff, parents and visitors to school by meeting all Health and Safety statutory requirements.

### **Enjoy & Achieve**

- Ensuring all pupils have the opportunity to reach their full potential;
- Ensuring pupils attend school regularly, arrive on time, are ready to learn and can access optimal learning environments on and off site;
- Encouraging parents to support their child's learning;
- Support staff career progression through performance management and continued professional development.

### **Making A Positive Contribution**

- Helping parents to support their child's social and emotional development;
- Ensuring pupils are supported in managing changes and responding to challenges in their lives;
- Encouraging pupils to engage in law abiding and positive behaviour;
- Providing staff with opportunities to contribute to the whole school programme of delivery.

### **Achieve Economic Well-being**

- Support for families in maximizing their economic well-being;
- Support pupils to access further education;

- Assist parents to support their child's preparation for working life.

## **2. Overview of school's responsibilities**

We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at St. John Vianney Catholic Primary School. This policy has been developed following the latest DFE guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', (2013).

As an organisation, we recognise that child abuse can be an emotive subject and therefore it is important to understand the feelings involved and not to allow them to interfere with judgment about any action that needs to be taken. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

As such, we will ensure that:

- The welfare of our pupils remains paramount.
- All pupils 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 (paid/unpaid) working on school premises understand they have a responsibility to report concerns to our designated staff.
- All appropriate vetting checks will be carried out for all adults involved in the delivery of school services. Information will be stored on school's Single Central Register (SCR). The vast majority of adults who work with children act professionally; however, we recognize some individuals will actively seek employment or voluntary work with children in order to harm them. Our safeguarding procedures direct all concerns regarding an individual's practice to be reported to the designated staff.

2a. The role of governors:

- The Governing Body has set out its commitment to safeguarding in this policy and it will continue to do all it can to ensure that the school is a safe environment for staff, pupils and members of the public accessing the site;
- The Governing Body will appoint a named governor for safeguarding and review an annual report on all safeguarding related matters;
- The Governing Body will ensure that safeguarding is considered as part of all recruitment procedures;

- The governors will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all statutory health and safety responsibilities are met. This will include a timetabled review of all related policies and action plans.

#### 2b. The role of the Head Teacher:

- It is the Head Teacher's role to implement the school's Safeguarding Policy with the support of the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body;
- It is the Head Teacher's role to ensure there is a collective responsibility for safeguarding and that all staff and volunteers are aware of the policy and related policies, protocols and procedures;
- The Head Teacher will ensure there are 2 or more trained staff members with named responsibility for child protection. (The role and duties of a designated name person are contained in school's Child Protection policy);
- The Head Teacher will ensure first aid is administered by suitably qualified members of staff;
- The Head Teacher will ensure that all appointments panels have at least one person who has completed Safer Recruitment training;
- The Head Teacher will promote safeguarding when overseeing the development of the curriculum and all other aspects of school life;
- The Head Teacher will ensure the on-going daily monitoring of the school site is maintained to ensure the safety of all who access;
- The head teacher will treat all incidents of unfair treatment and any incidents of bullying or discrimination, including racist incidents, with due seriousness. Any action taken will be guided by the strategic policy, specifically school's Single Equality policy, ratified by the Governing Body.

#### 2c. The role of all staff: teaching and non-teaching

- All staff will be made aware of and have access to school's Safeguarding Policy, protocols and procedures;
- All staff will attend annual safeguarding training;
- All staff will strive to safeguard pupils in all aspects of the learning environment on-site and on educational visits;
- All staff will be aware of school's Single Equality policy, challenge any incidents of prejudice, racism or homophobia and record any serious incidents, drawing them to the attention of the Head Teacher;
- Teachers will support teaching assistants, support staff and volunteers working in their classrooms or on educational visits;
- All staff have a responsibility to monitor and, where necessary, guide the practice of volunteers, visitors or contractors working in school. Any concerns will be reported to the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher/s, Assistant Head Teacher/s and designated named persons.

### 3. Policies, protocols and procedures

St. John Vianney Catholic Primary School has a range of supporting policies, protocols and procedures to accompany this document which have been developed in accordance with national government (DFE & DH) and local authority guidelines. Policies can be accessed on the school website or by requesting a paper copy. (Please note school reserves the right to charge for such requests). All policies and protocols have been ratified by the school's Governing Body and are regularly reviewed. These documents include our arrangements for the following areas:

- Single Central Record (SCR);
- Child Protection procedures;
- Safe recruitment and selection processes including Disclosure & Barring Service-DBS; vetting checks (formerly CRB), enhanced check for regulated activity (barred list check) and Overseas checks;
- Delivery of safeguarding as part of the curriculum;
- Volunteers, visitors and contractors working in school;
- School protocols e.g. Pupil missing/absconding from school /educational visits;
- Risk Assessments including COSHH Material Data Safety Sheets (MSDS);
- Arrangements for educational visits.

#### 4a. Single Central record

All schools are required by the Department For Education to maintain a Single Central Record (SCR) of recruitment vetting checks. It is used to log all safer recruitment checks, including details of DBS and/ or barred list checks.

Checks for the following people must be recorded on the SCR:

- All staff who are employed to work in the school;
- All staff who are employed on a supply or casual basis, whether employed directly by the school or through an agency;
- All unsupervised volunteers who have regular contact with pupils (this will include governors who work as volunteers);
- People brought into the school to provide additional teaching or instruction for pupils but who are not staff members, for example specialist sports coaches or music teachers.

Please note that as a result of the passage of the Protection of Freedoms Act (2012), some of the requirements (particularly around volunteers) have changed (from September 2012). The

Act has removed the requirement for schools to routinely carry out DBS checks on all volunteers, even when they work regularly with pupils. **If supervised by a suitably checked person**, school is not required to request any DBS checks on the volunteer and **are not entitled** to request a barred list check (known as an enhanced check for regulated activity). School is entitled to request a standard or enhanced DBS disclosure certificate without the barred list check. School can only request a barred list check for volunteers working regularly with pupils in an **unsupervised** capacity.

The Act has also removed the requirement for DBS checks to be carried out for governors simply because of their office. If governors volunteer in school activities the above measures for volunteers apply. The Department For Education and Ofsted have published key documentation detailing all revised vetting requirements and school will include any further revisions as necessary within our annual review process. (The requirement to keep a Single Central Record has not changed as a result of the passage of the Protection of Freedoms Act).

#### **4b. Child protection procedures**

This Safeguarding policy should be read and implemented in conjunction with school's Child Protection policy which details procedures for all matters relating to child protection. Our policy is guided by documentation issued by central government, St. Helens Local Education Authority and the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

#### **4c. Safer recruitment procedures**

St. John Vianney Catholic Primary School fully adheres to the statutory requirements of the Department For Education when recruiting staff. Full information is published on the DFE website. A minimum of one member of any recruitment panel will have completed Safer Recruitment training. All appropriate vetting and barring checks are completed prior to the commencement of employment and details are recorded on school's SCR.

#### **4d. Curriculum delivery**

A wide range of safeguarding topics are delivered through school's core and enhanced curriculum. This includes Personal Social Health Citizenship Education (PSHCE), Science, Design and Technology and pastoral support/intervention. Details of curriculum content are regularly shared with parents/guardians who are actively encouraged to support their child's learning. Where appropriate multi-agency partners support this delivery, e.g. School Health Team.

#### **4e. Visitors to school and volunteers/ contractors working in school**

St. John Vianney Catholic Primary School has a Visitors to School policy. All visitors are required to provide photographic ID; DBS details (where required - see Visitor to School policy) and sign in. They are issued with a visitor badge which they must prominently display at all times. In addition school issues guidance sheets for all visitors, supply staff, volunteers, extended service providers and contractors to ensure they are aware of and follow our safeguarding procedures.

#### **4f. Pupil missing/ absconding from school**

At St. John Vianney Catholic Primary we apply strict measures to ensure the safety of pupils. This includes measures to secure the school perimeter and access into school buildings. There is regular registration and full monitoring of pupils throughout the school day. Whilst strict safeguarding measures are in place, school feels it is prudent to have emergency protocols in place. These would be implemented should the whereabouts of a pupil be unknown. All staff are fully aware of school's Pupil Missing in School and Pupil Absconding from School protocols.

#### **4g. Risk assessments**

Risk assessments are in place and regularly reviewed for the following:

- All internal classrooms, shared areas and staff areas;
- All playground areas;
- All fixed equipment (indoor & outdoor);
- All moveable equipment (indoor & outdoor);
- Each educational visit off-site.

A COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) risk assessment is placed in school's COSHH file for any chemicals used in school. These risk assessments are formulated using product material safety data sheets (MSDS) as guidance. School also uses CLEAPS risk assessments to support the science curriculum. The COSHH file is maintained by school's site manager Mrs. Susan Brown.

If visitors or extended service providers plan to deliver an activity in school they must provide school with a written risk assessment of their planned activity prior to delivery. School will also issue these providers with any necessary school risk assessments.

#### **4h. Arrangements for educational visits**

St. John Vianney Catholic Primary School has an Educational Visits policy and supporting protocols which have been ratified by the Governing Body and made available to all staff. This details all the safeguarding procedures and arrangements for planning and delivering visits off-site. Copies of the policy and protocols are available on the school website or on request.

## **5. Implementing procedures**

An additional aim of this safeguarding policy is to ensure all teaching and non-teaching staff at St. John Vianney Catholic Primary School are aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse (see appendix 1 for categories of concern) and are supported by following the procedures. It is extremely difficult to determine if abuse has occurred and **it is not school's duty to investigate** however, all staff will be vigilant.

Staff will look carefully at the attendance/ behaviour of pupils and be alert for significant changes.

Although pupils may exhibit any of the following, abuse may not have occurred:

- Disclosure;
- Non-accidental injury, bruising or marks;
- Explanation given inconsistent with injury;
- Several different explanations for an injury;
- Reluctance to give information about an injury;
- A sudden change in behaviour – aggression, extroversion, depression, withdrawn;
- Attention seeking;
- Hyperactivity;
- Poor attention;
- Appear frightened of parents or family members;
- Indiscriminate attachment;
- Frozen watchfulness;
- Anxiety/irritability;
- Abdominal pain/headaches;
- Poor self-esteem;
- Poor peer relationships;
- Act in an inappropriate way expected for age;
- Sexualised behaviour/talk or drawings;
- Self harm/eating disorder;
- Reluctance to change for physical education;
- Failure to thrive;

- Poor hygiene;
- Recurrent/untreated infections of skin or head lice;
- Untreated health/dental issues;
- Frequent absence from school or repeated lateness.

If staff observe any of the above they will:

- React calmly;
- Not delay in passing on information and / or concerns;
- Where a disclosure is made, reassure the pupil that they were right to tell, that they are not to blame and take what the pupil says seriously;
- Allow the pupil to talk and ask only open questions. Take care not to press for detail, put forward their personal ideas or use any words that the pupil has not used themselves;
- Not promise confidentiality;
- Inform the pupil what they will do next;
- Make a full and written record of concerns observed, what has been said and action taken. Record any conversation/s and facts **verbatim** in writing as soon as possible. Sign and date the report (it may be required as evidence). Staff will be supported in doing this by school's designated named persons for child protection.

## 6. Written records

Where safeguarding concerns are suspected they will be shared as detailed earlier and details recorded in a confidential written record stored in a secure locked cabinet. Access to such records is strictly controlled. The written record will include:

- The pupil's known details including name, date of birth, address and contact numbers;
- Whether or not the person making the report is expressing their own concerns or those of someone else;
- The nature of the allegation, including dates, times, specific factors and any other relevant information;
- Make a clear distinction between what is fact, opinion or hearsay;
- A description of any visible bruising, other injuries or any indirect signs such as behavioural changes;
- Details of any witnesses to the incidents;
- The pupil's account, if it can be given, of what has happened and (if appropriate) how any bruising or other injuries occurred;
- Accounts from others, including colleagues and, where appropriate, parents/guardians.

(Please note school may not seek an account from a parent/guardian should it be thought that such action may place the pupil at risk of harm).

## **7. Referral**

Sharing a concern will not automatically trigger the referral process. When the designated named person/s does feel it appropriate to make a referral, this will be made to the local Social Care - Child Protection Unit.

In some cases, school may need to protect a pupil immediately- in these situations emergency action will be taken by dialling 999. The Police are the only agency with statutory powers for the immediate protection of children.

We stress it is not school's responsibility to investigate or decide whether abuse has taken place or not. However, any concerns will be raised and if deemed appropriate information will be referred to the appropriate authority immediately. This action will be discussed with parents/guardians unless doing so is deemed to put the pupil at further risk. The best interest of the pupil is school's paramount concern.

## **8. Review of progress**

This policy has been ratified by school's Governing Body which has a rolling programme for reviewing all school policies and monitoring their impact. In line with legislative requirements, they will review safeguarding arrangements and this policy on an annual basis.

## **9. Publishing the Safeguarding Policy**

In order to meet statutory requirements school will:

- Publish school's policy on the school website;
- Place an electronic copy of the policy in the staff area of school's computer system/VLE;
- Ensure paper copies are made available on request;
- Raise safeguarding awareness through the school newsletter, assemblies, staff meetings and other communications;
- Ensure support is offered to parents/ guardians where English is a second language to help them understand the content of school's policy.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Categories of concern**

**Neglect:** The persistent or severe neglect of a child, which results in significant impairment of the child's health or development such as:

- Failure to provide adequate food, clothing or shelter (including abandonment or exclusion from home);
- Failure to protect from physical or emotional harm;
- Failure to meet child's basic emotional needs;
- Failure to ensure adequate supervision;
- Failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care.

**Physical Abuse:** Deliberate or intended injury to a child such as:

- Hitting, shaking, throwing, burning, scalding, drowning, suffocating, or poisoning;
- Deliberate inducement of an illness.

**Sexual Abuse:** Actual or likely sexual exploitation such as:

- Use of force or enticement to take part in sexual activity, penetrative, or non-penetrative;
- Involvement in non-contact activities such as looking at or making abusive images;
- Encouraging children to watch sexual activities;
- Encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways;
- Any sexual activity with a child under the age of 16.

**Emotional Abuse:** Persistent or severe emotional ill-treatment or rejection, which adversely affects the child's emotional and behavioural development such as:

- Conveying to a child that they are worthless, unloved or inadequate;
- Overprotection, limiting exploration and learning, preventing normal social interaction or imposing inappropriate expectations;
- Causing a child to feel frightened or in danger by the witnessing of violence towards another person whether domestic or not.