ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Securtiy Policy

October 2026

Our Mission Statement

The Mission of St. John's Catholic Primary School is to grow and learn in the footsteps of Jesus by being: responsible, caring, prayerful, creative, independent, thoughtful, curious and respectful. We live our Mission by:

- Ensuring that our attitudes and values are transmitted through a curriculum that is consistent with the Catholic faith
- Delivering a curriculum that is relevant, varied, interesting, stimulating, balanced and appropriate
- Developing policies and schemes of work, which recognise that R.E. is an integral part of the curriculum
- Developing sound teaching and effective classroom management
- Generating a positive attitude to learning where realistic expectations of pupils and high standards of work are expected
- Using a variety of teaching approaches that reflect the needs of individual pupils
- Participating in projects which focus on the needs of others including local and international charities.
- St. John's is a Catholic voluntary aided primary school, established by the Church to serve the parishes of St. John the Baptist, Trowbridge, St. Bernadette's, Westbury and St. Thomas More, Bradford on Avon.

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Statement of intent

St John's Catholic primary School recognises its duty, under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, to identify, assess and keep under review health and safety related risks, and to eliminate or reduce risks. We are dedicated to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all people within the school community through implementing effective security measures, including e-safety and electronic control measures. Under this policy, a security risk includes risks to staff and pupils.

To identify the most prominent risks facing us, a thorough risk assessment has been conducted, which has been used to frame this policy to ensure that the control measures are appropriate and relevant.

The aim of this policy is to inform staff, pupils, parents and visitors of the security arrangements and controls in place and encourage them to help ensure that these are implemented effectively, while maintaining an open and welcoming environment for all.

This policy and the associated procedures apply to all individuals entering the school premises. The policy will be distributed to staff and pupils, so they can recognise and understand the need to be more vigilant about their own safety and security.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Section 547 of the Education Act 1996
- Section 40 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

This policy has due regard to the following statutory and good practice guidance:

- DfE 'Controlling access to school premises'
- DfE ‘School and college security’
- DfE ‘Site security guidance’
- DfE ‘Good estate management for schools’
- DfE ‘Keeping children safe in education’

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- Premises Management Policy
- Visitor Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Emergency Preparedness Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Security Risk Assessment
- Data Protection Policy
- Cyber-security Policy
- Surveillance and CCTV Policy
- Lettings Policy
- COSHH Policy
- Records Management Policy
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy

- Business Continuity Plan
- PSHE Policy

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board will be responsible for:

- Explaining who is accountable for the school estate at a LA and school level.
- Undertaking necessary security risk assessments in conjunction with the headteacher.
- Monitoring the performance of the school's security measures.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of this policy on an annual basis alongside the site manager and headteacher.
- Delegating the day-to-day implementation of this policy to the headteacher.
- Ensuring that the school's security is accounted for when considering requests to hire the premises, in line with the school's Lettings Policy.
- Conducting a Security Risk Assessment in collaboration with the site manager and headteacher on an annual basis.

The headteacher will be responsible for:

- Reviewing the effectiveness of this policy on an annual basis alongside the governing board and site manager.
- Appointing one or more competent persons to lead on school security – the school's competent person is the SBM.
- Establishing relationships with local security networks and working with the police, local authority (LA) and others in the wider community to gather and share security-related intelligence.
- Ensuring that all staff members are aware of the procedures set out within this policy and are provided with the required training.
- Informing parents, pupils, visitors and contractors of the school's security procedures.
- Establishing a system for reporting, recording and managing breaches of this policy.
- Budgeting for security measures effectively.
- Ensuring that security is taken into account when considering any proposed changes to the school premises.
- Undertaking necessary security risk assessments in conjunction with the governing board.
- Reporting any crimes to the police.
- Reporting security incidents to the police or emergency services where appropriate.

- Conducting a Security Risk Assessment in collaboration with the site manager and governing board on an annual basis.

All staff members are responsible for:

- Securing windows and doors when rooms are not in use.
- Ensuring that visitors sign in and out at the school office.
- Challenging any unidentified individuals and notifying the headteacher of any unauthorised person.
- Securing valuable equipment after use.
- Ensuring the security of school equipment when taken off the school premises, such as laptops.
- Accessing the school premises in accordance with the school's Key Holder Policy.
- Acting in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy and Cyber-security Policy, ensuring that data and information is secure.
- Reporting any minor security concerns to the headteacher.
- Reporting major security concerns directly to the police or emergency services, where appropriate.
- Carrying their school ID with them at all times.
- Being responsible for the security of any of their own property that they bring to the school site.

As the competent person, the site manager is responsible for:

- Reviewing the effectiveness of this policy on an annual basis alongside the governing board and headteacher.
- Ensuring the school estate is well maintained, including the physical and electrical security systems.
- Securing school entrances and exits.
- Liaising with the named key holder, ensuring that the school is effectively secured at the end of each day.
- Carrying out security checks on a daily basis and maintaining a record of these checks.
- Raising any security concerns with the headteacher immediately.
- Ensuring a Business Continuity Plan is in place.
- Considering the type, frequency and probability of an incident or event, so that effective control measures can be established.
- Prioritising risks and, in line with the school's and locally agreed procedures, implementing control measures to mitigate priority risks.
- Reviewing CCTV systems to monitor activity, ensuring that CCTV is used in accordance with the school's Surveillance and CCTV Policy.

- Ensuring all access control systems, e.g. intruder alarms, are in good working order and are activated once the school has closed.
- Seeking professional advice on security issues where necessary.
- Conducting a Security Risk Assessment in collaboration with the headteacher and governing board on an annual basis.

Pupils and parents are responsible for:

- Reporting anyone without an ID badge to a staff member.
- Reporting any activity that they believe to be suspicious or concerning to a member of staff immediately – this can be done anonymously, if preferred.
- Familiarising themselves with the requirements of this policy, to ensure they know what to do in an emergency.
- Taking responsibility for their own security.

Working with other agencies

The headteacher will establish relationships with local services such as the police, the local authority (LA) and others in the community.

The SBM and site manager will be responsible for maintaining these relationships to gather and share security-related information.

Strong links will be developed with the police to enable the school to put arrangements in place to share information quickly and to help with the review of this policy and related security plans.

The SBM and site manager will seek expert security advice where necessary and use this information when reviewing this policy.

Physical security arrangements

The school will incorporate measures as outlined in the DfE's 'Site security guidance' to ensure that it is taking all the appropriate steps to protect the security and safety of the school premises.

Intrusion detection systems, including fencing, security lighting, security glazing and intruder alarms, will be installed throughout the school estate.

The school perimeter will be protected with a secure fence or railings of a sufficient height to deter intruders. Gates will be the same height as fencing where possible, fitted with anti-lift hinges, and contain a suitable locking mechanism.

The site manager will undertake daily visual checks of the school fencing, security glazing, gates and locks on any doors and windows, ensuring that they are maintained to a high standard.

All ground floor or other easily accessible windows above ground floor level will have suitable key operable locks fitted for additional security. Glazing to doors and ground floor windows will include one pane of attack resistant laminated glass.

The school will implement a Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy, which enables the school to check pupils, staff and visitors for prohibited items and confiscate them, including deleting inappropriate images or content from phones.

The school will be able to lock down parts, or all, of the school, in accordance with the Invacuation, Lockdown and Evacuation Policy.

Vehicle access will be restricted via the use of building controls that enables part of the school to be locked down, minimising direct access to school buildings e.g. by using speed bumps, warning and directional signage, barriers and structural furniture.

There will be directional signage so that individuals can find the school office with ease.

There will be warning signs around the school that state the expected behaviour of individuals, and that the police will be contacted following any inappropriate or threatening behaviour.

Chemical and biological materials will be stored safely and securely, in line with industry standards.

Between the times of 8:45am and 3:00pm, the SBM and site manager will ensure the school gates are closed.

Where access to the school is required, such as for a large delivery, permission will be sought from the headteacher or SBM prior to the event and the site manager will oversee the access.

Staff cars are safely secured in the school car park, which is locked with electric gates between the hours of 8:40am and 3:00pm. The car park will be well lit with good natural surveillance.

There will be an intercom system on the car park fence, in case individuals need to access the car park in between the hours of 8:40am and 3:15pm.

School security alarms are tested on a monthly basis by the site manager. The key holder ensures that the school alarm is set on a nightly basis. Confidential information will be stored in locked filing cabinets, which only authorised staff have access to.

The school office will be secured whenever it is unattended, as it is the main entrance point to the school. Main vehicle and pedestrian access points will be overlooked by the school reception. The main entrance door to the school will be suitably signposted to visitors and contain an appropriate means of access control, e.g. a remote electronic lock release device with an intercom and visual verification. Secondary site access points will be kept locked from the outside unless required, e.g. to receive deliveries, but will be able to be unlocked from the inside in the event of an emergency. Classrooms will be locked when they are not in use.

Fire exit doors will be kept free of external door furniture.

Where possible, CCTV cameras will be in use and monitored by the SBM.

All visitors will be escorted to and from their destination within the school by a member of staff.

The school's security lighting will be maintained by the site manager. Security lighting will be provided around the perimeter of school buildings with dusk to dawn lighting on all elevations where there is an entrance door. Lighting will be designed to eliminate and minimise potential hiding points.

Appropriate mechanisms will be in place to prevent unauthorised access to the roof and courtyard areas.

The site manager will be responsible for ensuring that the school's security lighting motion detector is switched on every night but turned off each morning.

Cyber-security

The ICT technician from Oakford Technology will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate and effective online security systems are in place, including malware, internet gateways, firewalls, filtering and monitoring, and virus control software.

The school uses a secure network that is password protected.

Staff members and pupils are aware of the school's Cyber-security Policy and the measures that are in place to effectively manage risks caused by internet use.

All staff members will be responsible for identifying risks posed to pupils and themselves, including those in relation to the use of the internet.

Staff members and pupils will not use their personal devices for school-related work.

The school will only use CCTV cameras that are able to be remote access capability password protected.

Cyber-security arrangements support the school's safeguarding responsibilities by helping to protect pupils from online risks and ensuring appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place.

The Cyber-security Policy will be reviewed in light of any new cyber security risks, e.g. a rise in targeted phishing attacks on schools, or statutory guidance, and updated where appropriate.

Equipment and belongings

An inventory will be kept of high-value items and items considered to be most at risk with photographic evidence, serial numbers and identification marks.

All electronic equipment will be stored in a secure location at the end of each day. Tablets and laptops will be stored in a lockable cabinet. Tablets and laptops must never be left in classrooms unattended.

After using school equipment, staff members will be responsible for ensuring that it is returned to the appropriate storage location and secured.

Staff members will be responsible for any personal belongings, including teaching equipment, they bring on to the school premises.

Pupils, parents, visitors and contractors will be responsible for their personal belongings and the school will not be liable for any damage or loss which may occur, in line with the school's Lost Property and Liability Policy.

Pupils will be advised not to bring valuable items to school unless absolutely necessary.

Any equipment that someone wishes to take off the school site will be approved by the headteacher in advance and a record of the loan kept, in line with the Lost Property and Liability Policy.

Any equipment that is loaned out to staff or pupils will be inspected upon its return, e.g. laptop that could carry viruses.

Outside play equipment, as well as sporting equipment, will be tidied away and secured at the end of use.

The school will provide an area for pupils to store bikes and scooters during school hours. Pupils are responsible for providing their own lock and effectively securing their bikes or scooters. The school is not responsible for any loss or damage that may occur.

Lost property will be stored in the school office, where it will be kept for two months before disposal.

School events

During school events, all rooms except those required will be locked. Unless needed for the event, all equipment will be securely stored away.

The event organiser will be responsible for recording what equipment is being used for the event and ensuring that it is returned.

The SBM will carry out an extensive risk assessment for each event.

During off-site events, the school premises will be secured.

Individual staff members will not be left alone on the school premises with a parent or visitor. Where lone working is necessary, e.g. a parent meeting with a teacher, a lone worker risk assessment will be carried out.

Access to the premises

The school premises are private property; however, parents of enrolled pupils have an 'implied licence' to access the school premises at specified times.

All staff members will be issued with an ID badge during their induction process, which must be worn at all times.

Upon arrival at the school, visitors will be directed to the school office where they must sign in, giving a reason for their visit, and wait for further direction from a member of the office staff.

All visitors will be made aware of, and will be expected to act in accordance with, the school's Visitor Policy.

All visitors and contractors who are authorised to be on the school premises will be provided with a school ID badge, which will be kept visible at all times.

The office staff will be responsible for ensuring that contractors and visitors sign out when they leave and return their ID badge.

Anyone who does not have an ID badge or is suspected to be an intruder will be challenged.

Individuals who are hiring the school site will act in accordance with the Lettings Policy and their hire agreement.

Integrated access control systems will be installed to control, monitor and deny access when necessary.

The site manager will ensure that all access control systems are in place and effective – where problems are identified, the site manager will rectify them immediately.

Removing people from the premises

In the event of abuse or threats to staff, pupils, parents or visitors, the school holds the right to bar an individual from entering the premises.

Where an individual has accessed the premises in a way that exceeds their 'implied licence', the school has the right to remove them from the premises; this includes any individual causing a nuisance or disturbance.

Unidentified individuals who refuse to report to the school office, become aggressive or are deemed to be a threat to the safety of the school community, will be escorted from the school premises and, where necessary, the police will be called.

In terms of barring particular individuals, the headteacher will make a proposal in writing.

Letters and documentation concerning barring an individual will be signed by the headteacher.

Following formal representations being made by the parties involved, the bar will either be confirmed or removed.

All bars will be subject to review within a reasonable timeframe.

The school has the right to take civil action through the courts to stop persistent trespassers.

If a crime is committed on the school premises, the school has the right to remove the individual in question from the site and report the incident to the police.

Violent crime

All staff will be made aware of the indicators that may signal that pupils are at risk from, or are involved with, serious violent crime. Staff will understand that concerns should be reported immediately in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and that the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) should be informed where appropriate.

Where there are concerns about weapons being brought on to the school premises, the Headteacher, SBM and site manager will consider additional security mechanisms, consulting the police where appropriate, to ensure the school community is kept safe. Searching and screening may take place in accordance with the school Searching, Screening and Confiscation policy.

The headteacher will liaise with the local police, community safety partners and other educational institutions in the area on how to address youth violence.

Pupils will be taught about the impact of violent crime and how to protect themselves from becoming involved in criminal acts.

Reporting security concerns

Missing or stolen equipment will be reported immediately to the Headteacher.

Unidentified individuals will be challenged immediately and reported to the school office.

Concerns regarding the security of the school will be reported directly to the SBM and/or site manager.

The headteacher will promptly risk assess and discuss security concerns with the governing board to identify effective resolutions, e.g. installing CCTV systems.

Complaints about the school's security measures will be dealt with in line with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school will implement procedures to enable pupils, parents and the local community to report any security concerns anonymously – a Security Reporting Form can be accessed on the school's website.

If the DfE is made aware of an extremist or counter terrorism-related incident at the school, it will work with the LA and other partners to ensure the school is provided with the relevant support.

Emergency procedures

The school will establish formal procedures to responding to emergencies linked to the security of the school estate and will conduct an estate risk assessment which considers emergency scenarios.

The school will draw on the expertise provided by the LA, police and other agencies when developing emergency procedures.

In the event of an emergency or a breach of security, the procedures outlined in the school's Invacuation, Lockdown and Evacuation Policy and Emergency plan will be followed – staff members will be made aware of when it is appropriate to implement these procedures.

All staff members, pupils and volunteers, will be made aware of the school's emergency procedures as part of their induction, including those in relation to security alerts, trespassers and unidentified objects.

The headteacher will ensure that the appropriate authority is notified about any incidents and the need for emergency procedures, e.g. the police or the LA.

If it is necessary for the school to be locked down, the headteacher will contact the police for advice.

The headteacher, or their delegate, will be responsible for communicating with parents while the school's emergency procedures are being implemented.

The headteacher, or their delegate, will be responsible for dealing with any media enquiries about an incident.

Where appropriate, the school's social media channels will be used to keep the public informed during a serious incident. The headteacher will liaise with the police on how to share this information effectively.

If emergency procedures are carried out, the headteacher is responsible for ensuring that these are properly recorded.

This policy, and all associated plans and procedures, such as the Business Continuity Plan, will be reviewed and evaluated following any incident, to ensure that they remain effective.

Staff training and informing pupils

Staff members will receive cyber-security related training on an annual basis.

All staff members and pupils will receive training in the school's emergency procedures and will be aware of what to do.

As the competent person, the SBM and site manager will have relevant subject knowledge, e.g. security, be trained in matters related to handling health and safety risks and have the experience to apply subject knowledge correctly in the workplace.

Staff will receive safe handling training for chemical and biological materials, in line with the school's COSHH Policy.

Staff will be made aware of relevant security networks and be able to evaluate and assess the impact of any new initiatives on the school policy and its day-to-day operation, as well as how to protect themselves and pupils

from harm, safeguard the school estate and be able to determine when it is appropriate to contact the police/emergency services.

Relevant staff members will receive training in communications handling, particularly in relation to the press and media, on an regular basis.

External providers and visitors will be invited into the school when necessary to help deliver security-related messages to staff and pupils. When determining whether an external provider should be invited into school, the headteacher will consider the following:

- What the desired learning objectives and outcomes of the session are
- Why an external provider needs to be used rather than an internal member of staff
- Whether the messages can be delivered in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Whether the external provider has the required skills and knowledge
- How the impact of the session will be evaluated

Pupils will be taught about security-related issues, e.g. staying safe online, through the PSHE curriculum, in line with the PSHE Policy.

Security training will complements statutory safeguarding training provided in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Testing security procedures

The SBM and site manager will develop a schedule of testing the school's security and emergency procedures.

These tests will be used to identify where improvements can be made and to enable the school to assess what the wider residual effects of an incident are likely to be.

The headteacher will determine whether neighbouring schools, the local police or other agencies should be involved in helping to evaluate practise drills.

Information security

The Data Protection Officer (DPO) will be responsible for ensuring that there are policies and procedures in place to manage and monitor access to sensitive and personal information, including the Data Protection Policy and Records Management Policy.

The DPO will provide training to staff on school policies and procedures in relation to information security.

Policies relating to information security will be reviewed in light of any new information on security risks or statutory guidance, and updated where appropriate.

Monitoring and review

Staff members will be notified of any changes made to this policy or to the school's security system.

This policy has been approved and adopted by the Governing Body.

Headteacher: Mrs K O'Rourke

Chair of Governors: Mrs C Doogue

Review cycle:	12 months
Next review due:	October 2027

Important information about this policy

This policy has been reviewed by Forbes Solicitors LLP, and its content is considered to be compliant with government legislation and statutory guidance in force at the time of publishing on 1 September 2025. Forbes Solicitors LLP gives no warranty in relation to the contents of this policy or its suitability for any specific purpose.

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