

Children's Safeguarding Policy

November 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

At St John's Catholic Primary School, we want to make sure that you feel looked after, safe and happy when you are in and out of school.

Sometimes we don't know if something bad is happening, so you need to tell us.

This document, which is known as a "policy", looks at what we do to make sure you are kept safe, and what you can do when you think someone is hurting you or someone else.

We can help you by:

- Teaching you what safeguarding is.
- Teaching you what to do if you feel worried or scared.
- Using the language *'Trusted Adults'*
- Making sure you know who you can speak to if you are worried.

If you don't understand something or have any questions about what you read in the policy, please ask your teacher for help.

What does safeguarding mean?

"Safeguarding" refers to all the things we do to make sure you are kept safe from any harm.

Safeguarding means that staff will:

- Protect you from harm.
- Make sure that nothing stops you being healthy or developing properly.
- Make sure that you are looked after.
- Make sure that you have the best life chances and can grow up happy and successful.

We will make sure that the school is a friendly, welcoming and supportive place to spend time in, making it somewhere you want to be.

We want to make sure that you know who to ask for help, and will plan lessons to help you know how to look after yourself online and in the real world.

Staying safe

If you are worried about something, you can talk to any adult in school that you trust. This could be your teacher or any other staff member. If you need to talk, we will listen.

We respect you and want to keep you safe, so we will do our best to help you to feel safe and happy. We will also teach you how to spot risks and what you can to do keep yourself safe.

We think it is important for you to know where to get help if you are worried or unhappy about something, and we will do our best to spot if there is a problem.

We will always make time to listen and talk if you need us, please remember:

- You are important to us.
- We encourage every child to think who is their trusted adult
- It's never your fault if someone is hurting you.
- There is always someone that can help you and you will not be in trouble.
- If someone is hurting you, they may also be hurting someone else, so it is important that you tell someone to make it stop and know that you will be kept safe.
- Every child should enjoy the right to a happy and safe childhood – do not be scared to tell someone if there is anything worrying you.

Who to talk to

It's important that you tell someone you trust if someone is:

- Bullying you.
- Saying things to you that make you feel upset or uncomfortable.

- Touching a private part of your body.
- Hitting or hurting you.
- Taking your things.
- Sending unkind messages on the internet or to your phone.

It is important you **tell someone** as soon as someone starts hurting or harming you, or you think that this is happening to someone else.

Speaking to someone like your parent, carer or teacher will mean that we can make sure the **abuse stops** and doesn't happen again.

In every school there is always somebody who has the responsibility to keep you safe and all staff have to tell that person if they are worried about you – this person is called the DSL, which stands for **designated safeguarding lead**. Other members of staff have also been taught how to do the DSL's job.

Staff are taught how to keep children safe as it is the most important part of their job.

The list below shows the people at our school that can do the job of the DSL:

- **Mrs O'Mahony**
- **Mrs O'Rourke**
- **Mr Gerrish**

There are also places outside of school that you can go to for help. You can call or visit:

- Childline on 0800 11 11 or visit www.childline.org.uk
- NSPCC on 0800 800 5000 or visit www.nspcc.org.uk
- Kidscape on 020 7730 3300 or visit www.kidscape.org.uk
- Youth Access on 020 8772 9900 or visit www.youthaccess.org.uk



Bullying

Bullying is a type of abuse that takes place when someone tries to hurt another person on purpose. People can be bullied in many different ways:

Emotional bullying includes hurting someone's feelings, by leaving them out or bossing them about. People can sometimes use emotional bullying to take advantage of you to get their own way by making threats or making you feel like you have to do something for them.

Physical bullying can include hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling or purposely hurting someone.

Verbal bullying can include insulting someone because of how they look or because of their personality, and can often go beyond that. People can also use verbal bullying to be **racist, sexist** or **homophobic**.

Racist bullying is bullying someone because of their race, skin colour, the country they are from or the religion they believe in.

Homophobic bullying means bullying someone because of their sexuality; calling someone gay or lesbian to hurt their feelings would be homophobic.

Sexist bullying is bullying someone because of their gender; bullying someone because they are a boy or a girl would be sexist.

Cyberbullying includes any kind of bullying which takes place online; cyberbullies send insulting messages over the internet and sometimes share secret information online to hurt someone's feelings.

Bullying is not always done by one person and can often involve a group of people 'ganging up' on someone – if you ever see someone being bullied, **never** join in and **always** tell a teacher.

The bully could be one of your peers, an older or younger child or an adult. It's important that you tell someone if you think you are being bullied.



Internet safety

Internet safety is an important part of keeping children safe at our school. We have lots of safety measures in place which we keep an eye on both in and outside of school, to help safeguard children.

Computers and mobile phones help us all to share things and talk to friends or family, but they can also make it easier for bullies and other people to hurt you or to get close to you. It is important to know how to keep yourself safe on your computer, your phone and on websites.

The school will help if you are sent unkind messages or if someone on the internet has asked you to do anything that has made you feel uncomfortable.

If you are unhappy with any comments or photographs you've seen on your computer or mobile, you can tell a staff member in school.

We have an Online Safety Policy which is there to protect you.



Relationships

Any relationship you have should be positive and make you feel safe, happy and comfortable. A negative relationship might make someone feel scared, confused, worried and even unsafe.

It is really important that you know the difference between a positive relationship and a negative relationship.

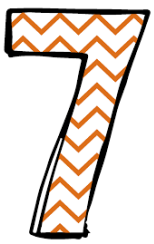
Positive relationships

- You are **comfortable** around that person.
- You can be **honest** with that person.
- You can say how you **feel** and what you are **thinking**, and you **listen** to each other.
- You **support** each other and treat each other **well**.
- You feel **safe**.

- You **trust** that person.
- You do **helpful things for each other**.
- You are **never pressured** to do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable.
- You feel **looked after**.

Negative relationships

- The person might **push** you, **hit** you or **break** your things.
- The person might **tell you what to do**, what to wear or who you can see.
- You might feel **scared** – they might say they will hurt you if you don't do something.
- The person might **make threats** or do harmful things if you do something they did not want you to do.
- The person **calls you names**, makes you feel bad in front of other people and makes you **feel bad about yourself**.
- The person gets **angry easily** and you don't know what will make them angry – it might make you feel **nervous**.
- The person might **pressure** you to do things **you don't want to do** or are not ready for.
- The person **might not take no for answer** when you say you don't want to do something.



School buildings and the playground

All school staff will do their best to make sure the building is safe for you to learn in and spend time in.

We will make sure that you know who everyone is in school by asking visitors to sign in when they arrive at school. You will always know who a visitor to the school is because they will have a lanyard or badge to wear.

If you see someone acting suspiciously or trying to gain access to school grounds you should report this to a teacher.

People that we do not know will never be allowed to spend time with you on your own and they will not be allowed to walk around the school without a member of staff.

Let's make St John' s Catholic Primary School a happy place!

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

Head teacher : Mrs K O'Rourke

Chair of Governors : Mrs C Doogue

Review cycle:	Annually
Next review due:	November 2027