

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

Mission Statement

"Learning together in Faith and Love"

- St. Mary's R.C. Primary School exists to serve the Roman Catholic families of the Parish of Our Lady of the Holy Souls, Kensal New Town and other local parishes.

The aims of our schools are:

- To promote Christian values where children live, learn and celebrate the teaching of Christ.
- To provide a curriculum which is broad, balanced and meaningful and where children can experience enjoyment and fulfilment.
- To promote the highest standards of teaching and learning within the framework of the National Curriculum
- To develop in each child a sense of achievement, value and self worth and to achieve the standards of which they are capable.
- To help our children acquire the skills of independent learning and make sufficiently rapid progress.
- To provide a safe and secure environment where children feel valued, and where they respect, help and care for each other.
- To involve parents in all aspects of their child's education and promote good home/school partnership.
- To develop in our children awareness and respect for the different cultures and religions represented in society and their responsibility to the wider community.
- To foster the continuing development of staff, parents and governors in serving the community.

St. Mary's Values- these are the values that underpin all areas of our school community:

- **Kindness**
- **Respect**
- **Tolerance**
- **Honesty**
- **Responsibility (for ourselves and our world)**
- **Co-operation**

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE FOR POLICY

In line with the Government's vision for all services for children and young people, the Governors and all school staff recognise that children have a fundamental right to learn in a safe environment and to be protected from harm, regardless of their age, gender, race, culture or disability. Young people are less likely to learn effectively and go on to lead positive and independent lives if they are not kept healthy and safe. This school is therefore committed to providing an environment, which is safe and where the welfare of each child is of paramount importance. This will include a commitment to ensuring that all pupils feel confident that any concerns they may have will be listened to and acted upon.

To this end, the Governors and school staff will be committed to ensuring that all members of the school community are aware of school responsibilities and procedures in this area. This will include communicating policies and procedures effectively with parents/carers, ensuring all staff and relevant members of Governing Body attend appropriate training and working effectively with other professionals on behalf of children in need or enquiring into allegations of child abuse.

This safeguarding system that all of our LA and Diocesan services are part of is described in the statutory guidance '**Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2021**'.

Legislative framework:

- Department for Education Statutory Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education" September 2021
- 'Working together to Safeguard Children 2018'
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Ofsted Policy on Safeguarding children and young people and young vulnerable adults (February 2015)
- Tri-borough Safeguarding Board Arrangements
- 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused' document
- Early Years Foundation Stage Document 2019

Guiding Principles for Intervention to Protect Children

The school will ensure that the principles identified below, many of which derive from the Children Act 1989, are followed by all staff:

- All children have a right to be kept safe and protected from abuse;
- Child abuse can occur in all cultures, religions and social classes;
- Staff must be sensitive to the families cultural and social background;
- Children must have the opportunity to express their views and be heard

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

- If there is a conflict of interests between the child and parent, the interests of the child must be paramount;
- The responsibility to initiate agreed procedures rests with the individual who identifies the concern;
- All staff must endeavour to work in partnership with those who hold parental responsibility for a child
- Information in the context of a child protection enquiry must be treated as CONFIDENTIAL and only shared with those who need to know.
- All staff should have access to appropriate and regular training
- School management must allow staff sufficient time to carry out their duties in relation to child protection and safeguarding

Aims and objectives

- To raise awareness of all school staff of the importance of safeguarding and child protection, and in particular to make clear responsibilities for identifying and reporting actual or suspected abuse;
- To ensure pupils and parents are aware that the school takes child protection seriously and will follow the appropriate procedures for identifying and reporting abuse and for dealing with allegations against staff;
- To promote effective liaison with other agencies in order to work together for the protection and welfare of all pupils;
- To support pupils' development in ways which will foster security, confidence and independence;
- To integrate a child protection curriculum within the existing curriculum, allowing for continuity and progress through all the Key Stages;
- To make appropriate links and reference to policies in related areas such as discipline and bullying.

Procedures

The school Child Protection procedures comply with all the relevant legislation and other guidance and advice from the **Bi-Borough Safeguarding Children's Board**.

The Governing Body and the Head teacher is responsible for ensuring that all staff receive regular training and support in respect of safeguarding and child protection and know which senior member of staff to refer to for advice in the absence of the Designated Safeguarding Lead officer(s).

The Governing Body recognises its own responsibilities to ensure the school has sufficient resources to effectively deliver its safeguarding responsibilities to the

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

highest standard and to request information as part of the Head Teacher's report regarding the safeguarding practice of the school so any identified gaps are remedied in a timely way.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and Child Protection Officers at St Mary's Catholic Primary School are **Ann Slavin**, The Executive Headteacher, **Magdalena Tusting**, The Head of School who will liaise with the Local Authority Children's Services Team and Ofsted as necessary, and **Loredana Beurthe**, the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer, Assistant Headteacher, Behaviour and Pastoral Care Lead.

All staff receive regular Safeguarding training, including PREVENT training. All staff members are asked to be vigilant concerning signs and evidence of physical, sexual and emotional abuse or neglect. Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone.

All staff members are expected to be mindful that early information sharing is vital for the effective identification, assessment, and allocation of appropriate service provision, whether this is when problems first emerge, or where a child is already known to local authority children's social care.

Abuse: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children. Children and young people may be abused in a family, institutional or community setting; by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger.

Types of abuse:

Physical abuse involves hitting, shaking, throwing, burning, suffocating or any other physical harm. Deliberately causing a child's ill health also constitutes physical abuse.

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. Showing children pornographic materials, sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways also constitutes sexual abuse.

Emotional abuse involves persistent or severe emotional ill treatment or torture likely to cause severe adverse effects on the emotional stability of a child. Such behaviour may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless, unloved, or inadequate, or making them feel frightened or vulnerable.

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical, emotional or psychological needs, and is likely to have a severe impact on their health, development or emotional stability. Neglect may involve failing to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or failing to adequately protect them from physical harm or ill health. Neglect can also be failure to meet the basic emotional needs of a child.

Upskirting

All staff should be made aware that 'upskirting' is now a criminal offence. A definition has been included which describes upskirting as, "taking a picture under a person's them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm.

'Honour-based' violence (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage)

Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage have been added into the title header to make it clearer what honour based violence includes. "Abuse committed in the context of preserving "honour" often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators". It is important that all staff are aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors.

Serious crime

All staff should be aware of indicators, which may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in well-being, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs.

We use the advice for schools and colleges, provided in the Home Office's Preventing youth violence and gang involvement and its criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: **county lines guidance**.

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact;

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

it can also occur through the use of technology. Child sexual exploitation (CSE) as outlined in Child Sexual Exploitation 2017 is a crime with devastating and long lasting consequences for its victims and their families. Childhoods and family life can be ruined and this is compounded when victims, or those at risk of abuse, do not receive appropriate, immediate and ongoing support.

Potential Indicators of Child Sexual Exploitation:

- Acquisition of money, clothes, mobile phones etc. without plausible explanation;
- Gang-association and/or isolation from peers/social networks;
- Exclusion or unexplained absences from school, college or work;
- Leaving home/care without explanation and persistently going missing or returning late;
- Excessive receipt of texts/phone calls;
- Returning home under the influence of drugs/alcohol;
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour for age/sexually transmitted infections;
- Evidence of/suspicions of physical or sexual assault;
- Relationships with controlling or significantly older individuals or groups;
- Multiple callers (unknown adults or peers);
- Frequenting areas known for sex work;
- Concerning use of the Internet or other social media;
- Increasing secretiveness around behaviours;
- Self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being.

Sexual Exploitation can have links to other types of crime. These include:

- Child trafficking
- Domestic abuse
- Sexual violence in intimate relationships
- Grooming (including online grooming)
- Abusive images of children and their distribution
- Drugs-related offences
- Gang-related activity
- Immigration-related offences
- Domestic servitude [Link to DfE](#);

Peer on peer abuse

All staff should recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. This is most likely to include, but not limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying)
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

- sexual violence and sexual harassment
- sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery); and initiation-type violence and rituals.

Abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as “banter” or “part of growing up”. Different gender issues can be prevalent when dealing with peer on peer abuse. This could for example include girls being sexually touched/assaulted or boys being subject to initiation-type violence;

At St Mary's we believe that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults in the school and other students.

We recognise that some students will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with under the school's Positive Behaviour Management Policy. Occasionally, allegations may be made against students by others in the school, which are of a safeguarding nature. Safeguarding issues raised in this way may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. It is likely that to be considered a safeguarding allegation against a pupil, some of the following features will be found.

The allegation:

- is made against an older pupil and refers to their behaviour towards a younger pupil or a more vulnerable pupil;
- is of a serious nature, possibly including a criminal offence;
- raises risk factors for other pupils in the school;
- indicates that other pupils may have been affected by this student;
- indicates that young people outside the school may be affected by this pupil;

At St Mary's we will support the victims of peer on peer abuse by:

- ensuring that all allegations are taken seriously;
- ensuring that the child is listened to;
- recording all incidents;
- acting on information and following safeguarding procedures;
- providing support though pastoral care to monitor the individual;
- share the information with the child's parent/carer in order to ensure support is available out of school hours;
- offering and referring to Early Help Sexting In cases of 'sexting' we follow guidance given to schools and colleges by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) published in 2017: Sexting in schools and colleges, responding to incidents, and safeguarding young people.

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

The Governing body and the school staff ensure that there is:

- A clear procedure to minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse;
- Record keeping on how allegations of peer on peer abuse are recorded, investigated and dealt with;
- A clear process as to how victims, perpetrators and any other child affected by peer on peer abuse will be supported;
- Recognition of the gendered nature of peer on peer abuse (i.e. that it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys perpetrators), but that all peer on peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously;

Sexual Harassment

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex from primary through to secondary stage. It can occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap; they can occur online and face to face (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable.

As set out in Part one of Keeping Children safe in education (KCSIE), all St Mary's staff working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of **'it could happen here'**.

At St Mary's addressing inappropriate behaviour (even if it appears to be relatively innocuous) is an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future.

As set out in Part one of KCSIE, all staff need to be aware that safeguarding incidents and behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school.

At St Mary's we believe it is essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report. Along with providing support to children who are victims of sexual violence or sexual harassment, the school will need to provide the alleged perpetrator(s) with safeguarding support as appropriate and implement any disciplinary sanctions. Staff must remember that a child abusing another child may be a sign they have been abused themselves or a sign of wider issues that require addressing within the culture of the school. Taking disciplinary action and providing appropriate support, can, and should, occur at the same time if necessary.

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

Online Safety

The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues.

Child sexual exploitation; radicalisation; sexual predation: technology often provides the platform that facilitates harm.

An effective approach to online safety empowers a school or college to protect and educate the whole school or college community in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any incident where appropriate.

Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children

The role of Designated Teacher for Looked After Children (LAC) and previously Looked After Children became statutory in September 2009 under the Children and Young Persons' Act 2008 (the 2008 Act). The designated teacher must be a qualified teacher with status and experience to advise and provide training to school staff on issues relating to Looked After Children (LAC) and previously Looked After Children. They need to be able to influence decisions about the teaching and learning of these children.

The Designated Teacher for Looked After Children and previously Looked after Children at St Mary's school is Loredana Beurthe.

Responsibilities in school:

- knowing who all the LAC and previously LAC are in school and ensuring that availability of all relevant details from school record-keeping systems as required;
- attending relevant training about LAC and previously LAC, and acting as the key liaison professional for other agencies and carers in relation to LAC and previously LAC;
- promoting a culture of high expectations and aspirations;
- helping school staff understand the issues that affect the learning of LAC and previously LAC, such as differentiated teaching strategies appropriate for individual children;
- making sure that LAC and previously LAC are prioritised in one-to-one tuition arrangements and that carers understand the importance of supporting learning at home;
- removing the barriers to learning for LAC and previously LAC;
- ensuring any LAC and previously LAC new to the school are welcomed positively and assessed when they start at the school to identify strengths and weaknesses in their learning. This will be used to inform planning and teaching;
- developing personalised learning packages for LAC and previously LAC in conjunction with the relevant teaching staff;
- ensuring that the LAC and previously LAC in their school have a voice in setting learning targets for themselves;
- championing for LAC and previously LAC;

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

- leading on developing and implementing the Personal Education Plan (PEP) within the school. The social worker is responsible for initiating the PEP process completing the front page of the PEP form;
- monitoring the child's progress against the targets on the PEP and extending these targets if they have been achieved;
- ensuring the child makes a smooth transition to the new school and that the child's records are transferred without delay;
- liaising with the Virtual School in all aspects of the LAC and previously LAC progress and support;
- convening urgent multi-agency meetings if a LAC and previously LAC is experiencing difficulties or is at risk of exclusion;
- arranging for a mentor or key worker to whom the young person can talk to;
- arranging for the LAC and previously LAC to be supported by his/her peers;
- producing at least one annual report to the governing body which should include: current progress, attendance and exclusions (if any), any concerns regarding behaviour, how the PEP has been implemented and whether the actions put in place are effective in addressing the learning needs of LAC and previously LAC. The report must not mention the children's names for confidentiality reasons;
- promoting good home-school links and the importance of education as a way of improving life chances for LAC and previously LAC.

SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

School staff members need to be aware of specific safeguarding issues and be alert to any risks, such as child sexual exploitation, fabricated or induced illness, female genital mutilation, private fostering, peer on peer abuse etc., and the local procedures to respond to risks.

All staff at St Mary's school are aware that **mental health problems** can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. School staff are not expected or trained to diagnose mental health conditions or issues, but may notice behaviours that may be of concern.

Where staff have a mental health concern about a child that may also be a safeguarding concern, they should raise the issue by informing the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a deputy.

Children with a Social Worker

At ST Mary's school, we recognise that when a child has a social worker, it is an indicator that the child is more at risk than most pupils. This may mean that they are more vulnerable to further harm, as well as facing educational barriers to attendance, learning, behaviour and poor mental health. We consider these needs, when making plans to support pupils who have a social worker. Regular

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

meetings and check-ups will take place as well as links being made with all relevant support agencies.

Opportunities to teach safeguarding Schools should consider opportunities for teaching safeguarding as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. This will be covered through **Relationships and Sex Education**.

Staff responsibilities

Staff understand that it is of paramount importance to have an “awareness culture” and one of approachability and listening to children and other stakeholders.

St Mary's Catholic Primary school is committed to ensuring that it meets the responsibilities in respect of child protection by giving its staff regular training and support.

We ensure that:

Staff receive training from the **Local Safeguarding Board** or/and **Designated Safeguarding Lead Officers**.

Staff are carefully recruited, have verified references and have full up to date Enhanced Disclosure and Barring System check (DBS) as appropriate. (see Single Central Record of DBS checks) which are renewed every three years.

We check the ongoing suitability of our staff by asking them to complete an annual form stating that nothing has changed in relation to their DBS check that could prevent them to be working with children. We also ask our staff to sign a disclosure by association ensuring that there is nothing, in there are no issues of disqualification in relation to any members of their close family.

Staff are not permitted to use their own mobile phones or personal cameras whilst working with children. (See Photography and Use of Images policy).

Parents must not use mobile phones or cameras in the activity/meeting rooms, or crèche room or during any activities or events when other people's children are present without consent.

Volunteers are briefed about child protection by their appropriate line manager.

Permanent staff receive the policy as part of their induction.

Staff are trained in Safeguarding issues and are updated as often as necessary.

Staff are aware of the main indicators of abuse.

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

Staff are aware of the main definitions and signs and symptoms of abuse.

Safeguarding is a common item in our staff meetings agenda.

Staff are aware of the importance of e-safety and will point this to the parents using the centre.

We have procedures for recording the details of visitors to the school.

St Mary's Catholic primary school committed to meeting our responsibility in the respect of child protection by treating all allegations seriously, sensitively and confidentially.

If a child makes an allegation or a disclosure, the member of staff concerned will:

- Listen carefully to what the child has to say
- Make no observable judgements
- Ensure the child is safe, comfortable and not left alone
- Make no promises that cannot be kept e.g. promising not to tell anybody what they are told

Staff are supported and encouraged to trust their professional instincts - if they suspect that abuse has taken place they should report it to the Lead Officer immediately. Information recorded will include full details of the alleged incident, details of all the parties involved, dates, times and locations and supporting information or evidence from members of staff. The staff will take great care to distinguish between fact and opinion when recording suspected incidents.

If there are reasonable grounds to believe that a child has been or is in danger of being abused, the procedure below will be activated:

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer will contact the Bi-borough Safeguarding Hub or Child Protection Team in Children's Services as appropriate.
- Ofsted will be informed as appropriate.
- Following advice from the Bi-borough Safeguarding Hub, the Lead Officer informs parents first or, depending on the nature of the concern, makes a referral without communicating with parents. The parent should be informed of the referral, only if it is clear that this will not place the child in more harm. In the case of suspected sexual abuse the parents must not be informed under any circumstances.

If a child protection referral is made, we follow the Bi-borough Safeguarding Board arrangements for making a referral.

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

An Initial Child Protection Conference is held within fifteen working days. The case conference offers the opportunity to share information and formulate a plan of action. Staff attend and participate in all case conferences and Core Group Meetings held under the LA guidelines.

All information relating to individual child protection issues are confidential and staff act accordingly. We only share information with appropriate and relevant persons and on a need to know basis.

Adult behaviours of concern

All St Mary's staff members can recognise and are aware of adult behaviours that disrespect or ignore boundaries and make children vulnerable to abuse. Staff behaviour is monitored closely through regular supervision. The following behaviours will be monitored and recorded and appropriate action will be taken as required:

- Makes others uncomfortable by ignoring social, emotional or physical boundaries or limits
- Refuses to let a child set any of his or her own limits. Uses teasing or belittling language to keep a child from setting a limit.
- Insists on hugging, touching, kissing, tickling, wrestling with or holding a child even when the child does not want this physical contact or attention.
- Frequently walks in on children in the bathroom
- Turns to a child for emotional or physical comfort by sharing personal or private information or activities, normally shared with adults
- Has secret interactions with children (e.g. games, sharing drugs, alcohol, or sexual material)
- Insists on or manages to spend uninterrupted time alone with a child;
- Seems "too good to be true," i.e. takes children on special outings alone; buys children gifts or gives them money for no apparent reason;
- Allows children to consistently get away with inappropriate behaviours
- Frequently points out sexual images or tells dirty or suggestive jokes with children present;
- Exposes a child to adult sexual interactions or images without apparent concern;
- Is overly interested in the sexuality of a particular child (e.g., talks repeatedly about the child's developing body);
- Controlling Behaviour and unrealistic expectations;
- Blames Children for Problems;

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

- Blames Children or others or own Feelings: "you make me mad," "I can't help being angry;
- Hypersensitivity;
- Cruelty to animals or children;
- Verbal abuse;
- Threats of violence;
- Breaking or striking objects;
- Using any force during an argument;
- Neglecting children;
- Emotional abuse and using inappropriate language;

Dealing with Allegations against Staff

If a concern or allegation is raised by a parent, the **Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer (LADO)** will meet with the parent immediately, recording full details of the conversation. The Lead Officer will advise the parent that an investigation will be carried out immediately and the parent kept informed of the actions taken. Parents will be asked to keep matters confidential whilst the investigation is conducted, bearing in mind that a breach in confidentiality might jeopardise the investigation and have legal implications for those involved.

The Lead Officer will carry out an immediate risk assessment in relation to the staff member who is the subject of the allegation and the child/ren and adults involved and put in place any protective measures that might be appropriate. The Lead Officer will follow procedures laid out in RBKC Safeguarding Policy in relation to allegations against a member of staff. (www.rbkc.gov.uk/subsites/safeguardingchildren.aspx)

The Lead Officer will immediately consult with the Local Area Designated Officer for Safeguarding, (Tel: 020 7598 4638, and inform Ofsted (0300 123 1231), when advised by LADO. If the allegation is made against a professional employed by an external organisation working in the centre, the DSL Officer will inform their line manager of the action taken.

The same process will apply if the allegation is made by a child, a colleague, or another member of staff. Any child making a disclosure will be fully supported as outlined in the section above "Dealing with cases of suspected abuse." Their parents will be informed of the matter following consultation with the Local Authority Safeguarding Team.

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

On being informed of an allegation against staff, the Local Area Designated Officer will be contacted. A decision will be made by the Headteacher and DSL, in consultation with the LADO, as to whether the member of staff should be (a) Suspended or (b) continue working, while the investigation is being carried out.

The parent and, as appropriate, the child, will be interviewed. The member of staff concerned will then be informed of the nature of the allegation and given the opportunity to respond.

The borough's disciplinary policy will apply to any member of staff, student or volunteer under investigation for alleged abuse.

In the event that an allegation is made about the DSL, Loredana Beurthe, Deputy DSL Officer, will be informed. She will then contact the Local Area Designated Officer and Ofsted.

If an allegation is made against the Deputy DSL Officer, the person to whom the allegation is reported will ring the Local Area Designated Officer directly and report the allegation to **Hilary Shaw**, Bi-borough Safeguarding and Child protection Schools and Education Senior Adviser (Tel: 020 7598 4876, email: hilary.shaw@rbkc.gov.uk) and/or **Elaine Campbell**, Bi-borough Safeguarding Lead

For Schools and Education (Tel: 07890 397061, email: elaine.campbell@rbkc.gov.uk).

Guidelines for all staff on recognising and responding to child abuse and keeping themselves safe from allegations of abuse are attached to this policy, together with the contact details of the Local Authority Child Protection advisers.

Whistleblowing

(Definition: Whistle blowing is raising a concern about malpractice within an organisation).

We strongly believe that the children who attend our school have the right to play and learn in a safe and positive environment.

This section of our policy refers to how individuals (staff, volunteers, members of the advisory board, parents and students) are given the right to make a

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

complaint should they witness any concerns surrounding the protection of children or adult behaviour within the children centre.

Brining a complaint or concern to the DSL officer or the Deputy DSL Officer r or another professional is the responsibility of everyone.

This policy provides individuals in the workplace protection from victimisation or punishment where they raise a genuine concern about misconduct or malpractice in the organisation. The policy is underpinned by the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, which encourages people to raise concerns in order to promote good governance and accountability in the public interest. The Act covers behaviour which relates to:

- A criminal offence
- Failure to comply with any legal obligation
- A miscarriage of justice
- Danger to the health and safety of an individual and/or the environment
- Deliberate concealment of information of any of the above

Whistle blowing is also underpinned by **'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2021'**.

We aim to nurture a culture of openness and transparency in our school, which makes it safe and acceptable for an employee, volunteer, student or advisory member to raise a concern. It is not an alternative to the complaints policy.

St Mary's school is committed to providing paid and unpaid staff with an effective mechanism for dealing with situations that arise from concerns within the workplace. An employee, volunteer, student or advisory group member who, acting in good faith, wishes to raise a concern, should normally report the matter to the DSL or Deputy DSL Officers, who should advise the individual of the action she will take in response to the concerns expressed.

Concerns should be investigated and resolved as quickly as possible. If the individual feels they cannot discuss the matter with the DSL or Deputy DSL officers and has concerns after informing them, the concern should be reported to the Advisory Group. The advisory group will then decide (in consultation, if necessary with other professional bodies, such as Area Safeguarding board, Ofsted and the Local Authority) what action is to be taken. This may include

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

whether the concern can be dealt with through the school's own complaints policy.

A disclosure will be protected. Confidentiality will be maintained wherever possible. The individual raising the concern will not suffer any detrimental treatment and will be supported as much as possible.

For more information, please see the Reporting Concerns at work, Whistleblowing Policy.

Staff Contact with Pupils

As adults in positions of trust and in order to minimise the risk of accusations being made against staff as a result of their daily contact with pupils, all school staff will adhere to the school's expectations regarding professional conduct and should familiarise themselves with the DfE Guidance regarding reasonable force:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/268771/use_of_reasonable_force_-_advice_for_headteachers_staff_and_governing_bodies_-_final_july_2013_001.pdf

CURRICULUM

The Governing Body believe that the school curriculum is important in the protection of children. They will aim to ensure that curriculum development meets the following objectives (these are often met through the PSHE and citizenship curriculum):

- Developing pupil self-esteem;
- Developing communication skills;
- Informing about all aspects of risk;
- Developing strategies for self-protection;
- Developing a sense of the boundaries between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour in adults;
- Developing non-abusive behaviour between pupils

Children with SEND

The Governing Body recognise that children with special educational needs may be especially vulnerable to abuse and expect staff to take extra care to interpret correctly apparent signs of abuse or neglect. Indications of abuse will be reported as for other pupils. The Senior Designated Teacher(s) will work with

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

the special educational needs co-ordinator to identify pupils with particular communication needs and to ensure clear guidance is available for staff in relation to their responsibilities when working with children with intimate care needs, according to the Guidelines set out in **Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2021**.

Confidentiality

The Governing Body accepts that child protection raises issues of confidentiality, which should be clearly understood by all staff. Reports to the Governing Body will not identify individual children.

Record Keeping and Reporting

The Governing Body expect all staff to maintain high quality signed and dated child protection records, which separate fact, allegation, hearsay and opinion and which clearly indicate decisions and action taken. These records may in some cases be required in court proceedings.

The Governing Body further expect school staff to assist the Family and Children's Services Department by providing information to contribute to child protection enquiries and for child protection case conferences as required.

Monitoring Pupils on the Child Protection Register

The Governing Body expects the Head Teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead Officers to ensure that teachers monitor closely the welfare, progress and attendance of all pupils. Relevant and pertinent information relating to children either subject to a Child Protection Plan or deemed Children in Need will be provided in a timely fashion to Family and Children's Services staff.

Communicating Safeguarding Policy to Parents and Pupils

The Governing Body expect parents and pupils to be informed that the school has a Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and is required to follow the LSCB Guidelines for reporting suspected abuse to the Family and Children's Services Department.

Pupils and parents should know how the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection systems work and with whom they can discuss any concerns. They should also be made aware of local or national telephone help lines.

Monitoring and evaluating effectiveness of the school Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

The governors require the Headteacher to report to them annually on the effectiveness of the school's child protection policy and on associated issues in the school over the preceding year.

St Marys Catholic Primary School

'Learning together in Faith and Love'

Child Protection in relation to other school policies

This Safeguarding and Child Protection policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant school policies such as:

- Positive Behaviour management Policy, including section on Anti-bullying;
- Positive Restraint Policy;
- Equality Policy;
- Accessibility Plan;
- SEND Policy;
- E-Safety Policy
- RSE and PHSE Policies

This Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy has been approved by the Governing Body in September 2021 and will be reviewed in the Autumn term 2022, and then annually.

Signed by Chair of Governors:



Signed by Headteacher:

