

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Saint Sister Faustyna Polish School, Slough

1. Introduction and Policy Statement

Saint Sister Faustyna Polish School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people attending our Saturday supplementary school. We believe that every child has the right to feel safe, valued, respected and protected from harm.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All staff, volunteers and helpers share a duty of care to ensure that children are protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation and are supported in their physical, emotional and mental wellbeing.

This policy has been developed in accordance with UK safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance, including the Children Act 1989 and 2004, Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), and Working Together to Safeguard Children.

2. Values and Ethos

The school operates in a caring environment built on respect, responsibility, kindness and integrity. We aim to create a community in which children feel confident to speak, are listened to and know that their concerns will be taken seriously.

We recognise the importance of positive relationships, clear boundaries and consistent behaviour in keeping children safe.

3. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all pupils, staff, volunteers, helpers, visitors and anyone acting on behalf of the school. It covers safeguarding arrangements during lessons, school events, educational visits, trips and any activities organised by the school.

4. Legal Framework

This policy is based on the principles of UK law and guidance, including:

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Data Protection legislation

The school ensures safeguarding practice reflects current statutory requirements.

5. Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The school has appointed a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who has overall responsibility for safeguarding and child protection.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Magdalena Witkowska

The DSL's responsibilities include:

- Receiving and managing safeguarding concerns

- Maintaining secure and confidential records
- Making referrals to safeguarding agencies when required
- Providing advice and support to staff and volunteers
- Ensuring safeguarding policies are reviewed and updated

6. Types of Abuse

The school recognises the four main categories of abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect.

We also recognise wider safeguarding concerns such as peer-on-peer abuse, bullying, domestic abuse, online abuse, child sexual exploitation, radicalisation and mental health concerns.

7. Recognising Signs and Indicators

Staff and volunteers are trained to recognise possible signs of abuse or neglect, including unexplained injuries, sudden changes in behaviour, withdrawal, anxiety, poor attendance or disclosures made by a child.

Concerns may arise from a single incident or a pattern of behaviour over time.

8. Responding to Disclosures

If a child discloses information that raises a safeguarding concern, staff must listen carefully, remain calm and supportive, avoid asking leading questions, and never promise confidentiality.

The child should be reassured that they have done the right thing and that the information will be shared with the DSL to help keep them safe.

9. Reporting Procedures

All safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately to the DSL. The DSL will assess the concern and decide on appropriate action, which may include monitoring, contacting parents, or making a referral to local safeguarding services.

If a child is believed to be at immediate risk of harm, emergency services will be contacted without delay.

10. Recording and Record Keeping

All safeguarding concerns are recorded accurately and stored securely. Records include dates, factual information and actions taken. Safeguarding records are kept separately from other pupil records and retained in line with data protection requirements.

11. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Safeguarding information is treated as highly confidential and shared only with those who need to know in order to protect the child.

Information may be shared without consent where there is a concern about a child's safety or welfare.

12. Staff Behaviour and Code of Conduct

All staff and volunteers are expected to act as positive role models, maintain professional boundaries and follow the school's Code of Conduct.

Inappropriate behaviour, language or contact with children is not tolerated.

13. Safer Recruitment and Training

The school follows safer recruitment practices. All staff and volunteers undergo appropriate DBS checks and receive safeguarding induction and regular training updates.

14. Online Safety

The school takes steps to protect children from online harm by supervising the use of technology, promoting safe online behaviour and educating pupils about online risks.

Parents are encouraged to work in partnership with the school to support online safety.

15. Allegations Against Adults

Any allegation or concern about the behaviour of a member of staff or volunteer will be taken seriously and managed in accordance with safeguarding procedures and statutory guidance.

16. Working with Parents and External Agencies

The school works in partnership with parents, carers and external safeguarding agencies. While open communication with families is important, the welfare of the child remains the paramount consideration.

17. Policy Review and Monitoring

This policy is reviewed annually or sooner if there are changes in legislation or guidance.

Date of last review: _____

Next review due: _____