

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

celebrates life and learning



SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS



Aim of this leaflet

In this leaflet, we are sharing with you school policies and practices with regards to ensuring that children are taught to live healthy lifestyles and adopt safe practices.

Statement of Intent

At St. Bede's Catholic Junior School, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We are committed to creating a culture and Christian environment where children feel safe, are listened to, and know who they can talk to if they have a worry. We work closely with families, the Local Authority, Police, Health Services and other agencies to ensure children receive the right help at the right time.

The adults in our community protect and promote children's rights to survive and thrive, to learn and grow, to make their voices heard and to reach their potential.

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.

School policies are in place to ensure that there is a consistent approach to practices throughout the school and that they are adhered to by staff, Governors and volunteers.

Adults have a tremendous impact on young children, therefore, with this in mind, adults at St. Bede's Catholic Junior School:

- ❖ are good role models for children;
- ❖ enjoy their work and working with children;
- ❖ are conscientious and hard-working;
- ❖ recognise and value strengths in each other and use these to support everyone;
- ❖ work within that agreed policies and procedures of the school;
- ❖ promote a happy, caring and safe school;
- ❖ encourage children to think for themselves, ask questions and find answers;
- ❖ create an environment of trust;
- ❖ challenge and support children in their learning.

There are numerous policies in place to safeguard our children which include:

Child Protection - this is a sensitive area in which all staff receive regular training. Here, school and other services for children and families all work together to support the needs of children.

The school has a trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who takes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. The DSL is supported by Deputy DSL and works closely with external agencies when concerns arise. Contact details for the DSL team can be found on the school website and in the school office.

Attendance - Good attendance is vital for children's learning, wellbeing and safeguarding.

The school carefully monitors attendance and punctuality and works with families where concerns arise. Frequent absence may sometimes indicate that a child requires additional support or safeguarding intervention.

Every day in school matters.

Behaviour - high standards of behaviour are expected in school. There are more details in our Behaviour for Learning Policy. Children are expected to interact positively with others and engage in the challenge of learning.

Health and safety - everyone at St. Bede's Catholic Junior School knows that she/he has a responsibility to ensure children and adults are able to work in a healthy and safe environment. Checks are undertaken by Staff and Governors. There are termly fire drills.

The school has fully trained work place and paediatric first aid members of staff who deal with accidents when they occur.

Risk Assessments are carried out by staff prior to any off-site visits.

Curriculum - through the planned curriculum, we ensure that the issues of healthy eating, physical exercise and safety are taught. This aspect is enhanced by the many visitors we have to school.

Security - we ensure your child is taught in a safe and secure environment in many ways, for example, by:

- having a secure playground which is fenced and gates locked
- at least two adults being on each playground at playtime and lunchtime;
- having one reception to the school building for visitors and ensuring all visitors sign in and out, and wear badges.

Online Safety - Children increasingly access technology both in and out of school. We teach pupils how to use the internet safely, respectfully and responsibly.

This includes education around:

- Online bullying and harassment
- Sharing images and personal information safely
- Gaming and social media safety
- Fake news and misinformation
- Online scams and financial exploitation
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and responsible technology use
- Reporting online concerns

The school uses appropriate filtering and monitoring systems to help keep children safe whilst using school technology.

Child-on-Child Abuse - All forms of child-on-child abuse are taken seriously and will never be dismissed as "banter", "part of growing up" or "just having a laugh".

This can include:

- Bullying (including online bullying)
- Physical abuse
- Harmful behaviours online
- Sexual harassment
- Sexual violence
- Upskirting
- Initiation or hazing behaviours

We encourage all children to speak to a trusted adult if they are worried about themselves or another child.

Mental Health and Wellbeing - Good mental health supports learning, relationships and wellbeing. Staff receive training to identify when children may need additional support. Whilst mental health concerns alone may not indicate a safeguarding issue, they can sometimes be a sign that a child is experiencing abuse, neglect or other difficulties. We work with families and outside agencies where additional support may be needed.

Safer recruitment and selection - The school follows robust recruitment procedures to ensure suitable adults work with children.

This includes:

- Enhanced DBS checks
- Identity verification
- Employment history checks
- Professional references
- Qualification checks where appropriate
- Prohibition and safeguarding checks as required

All staff receive safeguarding induction and ongoing safeguarding training.

Prevent Duty - Schools have a legal duty to help prevent children from being drawn into extremism or terrorism. Staff receive Prevent training and know how to respond to concerns.

We promote:

- Respect for others
- Fundamental British Values
- Critical thinking skills
- Safe discussion of different viewpoints
- Understanding of diversity and inclusion

Early Help - Sometimes children and families need extra support before problems become more serious.

Early Help involves schools and other agencies working together with families to identify needs and provide support as early as possible.

Parents and carers are encouraged to speak with school staff if they feel additional support may be helpful.

Operation Encompass - is to safeguard and support children who have been involved in a domestic abuse incident. Following such an incident, children will often arrive at school distressed, upset and unprepared. Operation Encompass aims to ensure that appropriate school staff are made aware early enough to support children in a way that means that they feel safe and included.

The morning following an incident the Police contact and give the necessary information to a Key Adult in School. The staff are then in an informed position to support the child in a way that is right for that particular child, either with silent or overt support.

Further information can be found at <http://www.operationencompass.org>

Information Sharing

In order to safeguard children, the school may need to share information with appropriate agencies. Information is shared lawfully, proportionately and in the best interests of the child. Where possible, we will work openly with parents and carers; however, there may be circumstances where information must be shared without parental consent to protect a child.

Complaints - if parents/carers have any complaints, the school staff will listen to your concerns and will follow up any issues arising. The school is committed to working closely with parents / carers for the benefit of the children. Remember no problem is too small and can often be prevented from becoming a bigger issue. If you continue to feel an issue has not been resolved, then make arrangements to meet with the Headteacher, Mrs. Hopkins, and she will try to help to resolve any problem. If you are still unhappy you could contact the Chair of Governors (Mrs. Rourke).

If You Are Worried About a Child

If you have concerns about the safety or welfare of a child, please speak to a member of the safeguarding team immediately.

You can also contact:

- iCART - 0303 333 4300
- Police (999 in an emergency)
- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

No concern is too small. It is always better to share a concern than remain worried.

We all know that children thrive better and are able to reach their full potential when school and families work closely together. The staff at St. Bede's Catholic Junior School are totally committed to this and we look forward to our continuing close partnership with you in the future.