



Our Lady of Lourdes
Catholic Primary School

Staff Code of Conduct

At Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, we seek to create a unique and enabling community whereby children and staff are encouraged to journey beyond their expectations – academically, socially and spiritually – within a culture based on Gospel Values.

Love, Live and Learn as Jesus Taught Us

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding and child protection.

SAFEGUARDING – Keeping ALL of our children safe

POLICY AGREED by Governing Body (date):	23.09.2025
POLICY PUBLISHED (including uploaded onto website – date):	20.10.2025
Reviewed Date:	Sept 2025
NEXT REVIEW (date):	July 2026
Signed Electronically by Chair of Governors (Joan Curran)	<i>J Curran</i>
Signed Electronically by Headteacher (Meg Wilson)	<i>M. Wilson</i>

KEY SAFEGUARDING PERSONNEL			
ROLE	NAME	TEL.	EMAIL
Headteacher	Mrs Meg Wilson	01454 867160	Meg.wilson@olol.org.uk
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Mrs Meg Wilson	01454 867160	Meg.wilson@olol.org.uk
Deputy DSL(s)	Mrs. Theresa Gee Mr Anthony Hamlen	01454 867160	theresa.gee1@olol.org.uk anthony.hamlen2@olol.org.uk
Nominated Governor	Mr Jim Corrigan Mrs Gemma Legg		jim.corrigan@olol.org.uk gemma.legg@olol.org.uk
Chair of Governors	Mrs. Joan Curran		joan.curran@olol.org.uk
Designated teacher for Looked After Children	Mrs Meg Wilson	01454 867160	Meg.wilson@olol.org.uk
The key safeguarding responsibilities within each of the roles above are set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)			

If you believe a child is at immediate risk of significant harm or injury, you must call the police on 999.	
South Glos. Children's Social Care Referrals: South Glos. Access and Response (<i>Student's home postcode falls within South Glos</i>) Bristol Children's Services (<i>Student's home postcodes fall within Bristol</i>) Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) , Jon Goddard in relation to allegations against a member of staff	Telephone number 01454 866000 Telephone number 0117 9038700 01454 868508 or lado@southglos.gov.uk

1. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)Part 1: EIA Screening

Policies, Procedures or Practices:	Staff Code of Conduct Policy	DATE:	September 2025
EIA CARRIED OUT BY:	Meg Wilson	EIA APPROVED BY:	Joan Curran

2. Groups that may be affected:

Are there concerns that the policy could have a different impact on any of the following groups? (please tick the relevant boxes)	Existing or potential adverse impact	Existing or potential for a positive impact
Age (young people, the elderly; issues surrounding protection and welfare, recruitment, training, pay, promotion)	N	
Disability (physical and mental disability, learning difficulties; issues surrounding access to buildings, curriculum and communication)	N	
Gender reassignment (transsexual)	N	
Marriage and civil partnership	N	
Pregnancy and maternity	N	
Racial groups (consider: language, culture, ethnicity including gypsy/traveller groups and asylum seekers)	N	
Religion or belief (practices of worship, religious or cultural observance, including non-belief)	N	
Sex (male, female)	N	
Sexual orientation (gay, lesbian, bisexual; actual or perceived)	N	

3. Any adverse impacts are explored in a Full Impact Assessment.

1) Purpose of the Policy

At Our Lady of Lourdes we are committed to creating and embedding a culture of vigilance which:

- Ensures we maintain an attitude of “It could happen here”
- Ensures that our learners are safe and protected
- Ensures that our learners know who to talk to if they have concerns and are assured that their voices are heard
- Ensures that our learners are supported, protected and informed
- Ensures that our learners are safe from discrimination and bullying
- Ensures that our learners recognise when they are at risk and know how to get help when they need it
- Ensures that our learners understand about how to keep themselves safe as part of a broad and balanced PSHE and online safety curriculum
- Focuses on preventative work in relation to trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and takes a trauma informed approach

This document provides a guide for adults working and volunteering in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School regarding acceptable and desirable conduct to safeguard children.

This policy applies to all staff, students, governors, cover staff and volunteers.

All staff:

- are familiar with this policy and have an opportunity to contribute to its review.
- understand their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- are aware that failure to meet the standards of behaviour and conduct in this policy may result in disciplinary action. This includes dismissal, criminal action and/or other proceedings including barring by the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) from working in regulated activity.

For the purposes of this policy:

- ‘Staff’ refers to all those working for the school, full time or part time, on a temporary basis, or permanent, in a paid or regular voluntary capacity.
- A ‘volunteer’ is a person who performs an activity that involves spending time, unpaid in this school (except for approved expenses).
- A ‘position of trust’ is one in which one party is in a position of power or influence over another, due to their work or the nature of their activity.
- ‘Child’ refers to all children up to the age of 18. All adults are in positions of trust in relation to every child at our school.
- It does not apply to employees of external contractors and providers of services (e.g. contract cleaners). Such staff are covered by the relevant Code of Conduct of their employing body.

Always remember that while you are caring for other people’s children, you are in a position of trust and your responsibilities to them and the organisation must be uppermost in your mind at all times. The child’s welfare is paramount (Children Act 1989).

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School is committed to providing positive academic, social and emotional outcomes for our children, underpinned by a strong safeguarding ethos. We are equally committed to the welfare of our staff, who are expected to adhere to the highest standards of professional behaviour to maintain confidence and respect of the general public and colleagues.

The governors will make sure that this policy reflects national and local requirements to protect and support the children and adults in our school.

We will fulfil our local and national responsibilities as laid out in the following key documents:

- **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)**
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)**
- **The procedures of Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership (SVPP)**

This policy:

- is based on the **Guidance for Safer Working Practice** for those working with children and young people in education settings (February 2022).
- aims to provide a guide for adults about acceptable and desirable conduct to ensure that staff maintain safe working practice and so safeguard both children and adults.
- does not provide a complete checklist of appropriate behaviour for staff in every circumstance. Staff must make judgements about their behaviour to secure the best interests and welfare of the children in their charge and, in so doing, will be seen to be acting reasonably.

In very exceptional circumstances where a member of staff believes it is the best interest of a child to breach these guidelines, that person must tell the headteacher of the justification for any proposed, or action already taken, at the earliest opportunity. The headteacher will make a written record of that discussion including any areas of disagreement and actions taken.

2) Relationship to other policies

As well as ensuring that we address child protection concerns, we will also ensure that children who attend our school are kept safe from harm whilst they are in our charge. To this end, this policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant policies:

Safeguarding and Child Protection	Attendance	Online Safety	Complaints
Educational Visits	Anti Bullying	Escalation	Equality
First Aid	Health and Safety	Whistleblowing	Medical Needs and Administering Medicine
Positive Mental Health	Relationship & Health Education	Safer Recruitment	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
Intimate Care	Behaviour and Relationships	Mission Statement	Home School Partnership Agreement

3) Mandatory Procedures

Confidentiality

The sorting and processing of personal information is governed by GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations 2018) - see Data Protection Policy (Staff Updated during INSET September 2025).

Child records are shared with those who have a professional need to see them. When staff have access to confidential information about colleagues, children or their parents/carers, the staff must treat such information in a sensitive and confidential way, sharing it only in the interests of a child and when legally permitted to do so.

Governors and trustees should not routinely access child records. Exceptions to this would be for the purpose of an investigation in line with the school's complaint policy and procedures. Staff, governors and trustees will not use their position to gain access to information for their own advantage and/or a child's or family's detriment.

If a member of staff is concerned that a child is being abused, is at risk of being abused or may have been abused in the past, they will follow the agreed procedure set out in the flowchart 'What to do if you are worried about a child', displayed in the staff room, Headteacher's office and entrance to the school. See Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (September 2025).

If a member of staff is ever in any doubt about whether to share information or not, they should get advice from the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs Meg Wilson).

4) Staff Relationships with Children and Parents

Staff responsibilities

All staff know that:

- they are in positions of trust in relation to all children on roll. They ensure that the power imbalance is never used for personal advantage or gratification. They avoid behaviour which might be interpreted by others as an abuse of the position of trust, and report any incident with this potential to the manager. This includes sharing personal contact details with children or families.
- they have a legal duty to protect the interests of children and accept the obligations inherent in that responsibility.
- it is important that they determine how best to build trusted relationships with children and young people which facilitate communication, using professional curiosity and speaking to the DSL if they have concerns about a child.
- they must not establish or seek to establish social contact with children to secure a friendship or to pursue or strengthen a relationship.
- they must inform the headteacher of any pre-existing (prior to the member of staff or child starting at the school) or new relationship with a child or close family member, which they feel, might compromise the school or their own professional standing.
- they should disclose any relationship or association (in the real world or online) that may impact on the school's ability to safeguard pupils.
- it is an offence (**Sexual Offences Act 2003**) for a member of staff in a position of trust to engage in any form of sexual activity with a child under the age of 18.

Certain behaviours are at odds with a position of trust. These include, but are not limited to:

- Harassment or discrimination based on any characteristic protected by the **Equality Act 2010**
- Loss of personal civility including, personal attacks or insults, displays of temper (such as throwing objects), unwanted physical contact (pushing, shoving, hitting) or the threat of the same.
- Staff must not swear, blaspheme or use offensive language in front of pupils, nor use language which is discriminatory and demeaning in any way.

Such behaviours are disciplinary offences and may be referred to Local Authority and/or the police.

Communication with children and parents, including social contact outside of the workplace

Staff must use their professional judgement when requesting or accepting any social contact (including through social media). This means that they must:

- not accept any request from pupils for contact via any social media platform.
- make a judgement about whether to maintain the connection in any cases where contacts were made before the child started at the school (e.g. teacher being friend with a parent). Staff must discuss any decision to maintain such contact with the headteacher.

We acknowledge that staff may have friendships and social contact with parents of children outside of school. Staff will not engage in conduct outside work that could damage their professional reputation or the reputation of the school community.

Any contact between staff and children and/or parents that is deemed to bring the school into disrepute or that might lead a reasonable person to question the staff member's motivation or intentions will always be investigated and could lead to disciplinary action.

Staff must not make sexual innuendos or any comments of a sexual nature to any pupil (other than in the context of sex and relationship education in the PSHE curriculum), nor make any comments trivialising alcohol or drug abuse.

Occasionally, pupils may develop an infatuation for a member of staff. In such situations, the advice of the Headteacher must be sought. Staff should deal with these situations sensitively and appropriately to maintain the dignity and safety of all concerned. They should remain aware, however, that such infatuations carry a high risk of words or actions being misinterpreted and should therefore make every effort to ensure that their own behaviour is beyond reproach.

Staff must inform the headteacher of any proposed or pre-existing arrangements between them and the families of children on roll that take place outside school e.g. baby-sitting, sports coaching, music tuition.

Staff are advised to wait until after an ex-pupil's 18th birthday before accepting any request on social media.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School would advise staff not to accept any ex-pupil as a friend, on social media

Gifts, rewards, favouritism and exclusion

Staff must:

- declare any gift they receive from a parent or child. This does not include small tokens of appreciation such as at Christmas or the end of the year.
- not give gifts to individual children. Any rewards or treats will be given only as part of the school's agreed behaviour policy.
- advise the headteacher about the offer of any gift or hospitality, from outside or inside the school, which might be interpreted as an attempt to influence staff conduct towards children, parents or other employees.

Physical contact including intimate/personal care and behaviour management

It is not possible to be specific about the appropriateness of each physical contact, since an action that is appropriate with one child, in one set of circumstances, may be inappropriate in another, or with a different child. Any physical contact will be in response to the child's needs, of limited duration and appropriate to their age, stage of development, gender, background and any agreed support or care plan.

Staff understand that:

- on a daily basis, it may be entirely appropriate and proper for staff to have physical contact with children and that they do so in ways appropriate to their professional role and in relation to the child's individual needs.
- some children are more comfortable with touch than others and/or may be more comfortable with touch from some adults than others. Whenever possible, adults seek the child's permission before initiating contact and are sensitive to any signs that the child may be uncomfortable *or* embarrassed.
- they have a responsibility to ensure the way they offer comfort to a distressed child is age appropriate.
- they must never touch a child in a way which may represent a misuse of authority or considered indecent.
- physical contact must never be secretive, or for the gratification of the adult.
- they should be aware of cultural or religious views about touching and be sensitive to the issues of gender.

If a member of staff believes that an action by them or a colleague could be misinterpreted, or if an action is observed which is possibly abusive, the incident and circumstances will be immediately reported to the headteacher/DSL and recorded in writing. If appropriate, the headteacher will consult with the **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)**.

Children with specific needs

Staff understand that a child who has suffered previous abuse or neglect may associate physical contact with such experiences. They recognise that such a child may seek out inappropriate physical contact and know to deter the child sensitively to help them to understand the importance of personal boundaries. Staff know that they must never indulge in play that involves rough-and-tumble or fun fights.

Children with disabilities may require more physical contact to assist their everyday learning. The arrangements are understood and agreed by all concerned, justified in terms of the child's needs, consistently applied and open to scrutiny. Staff always allow/encourage children, where able, to undertake self-care tasks independently.

If a child's behaviour presents a serious risk to themselves or others, a robust risk assessment and, where relevant, a physical intervention plan is always put in place and reviewed regularly. In all cases where physical intervention takes

place, staff record the incident and subsequent actions and report these in line with the school's behaviour and safeguarding policies.

First aid

Staff adhere to the school health and safety policy, the policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and for administering first aid or medication.

One to one situations

Staff carefully consider the welfare needs of children when with them in a one to one situation. All spaces in the school are set up to allow any activity to be easily observed by other staff in the school. Windows and doors are kept clear from display materials to allow rooms to be overlooked. Internal doors remain open when practicable.

Children are provided with age/developmentally appropriate advice about managing distressing feelings that may arise during 1-1 situations in school. Staff will record any time a child has appeared upset/angry during a 1-1 session and will report this to their line manager.

Home visits and transporting children

All work with children and parents/carers is whenever possible undertaken in the school. There are however occasions where it may be necessary to arrange a home visit e.g. as part of child's induction programme, during changes in operating practice due to a pandemic.

In such situations, these activities will only be undertaken with the knowledge and consent of senior leadership and parents/carers (unless there is a good reason not to, e.g. safeguarding concern). Where possible staff will work in pairs.

A risk assessment will be undertaken and school will ensure staff understand the purpose and limitations of their home visit. Any member of staff transporting a child in their own vehicle will:

- have prior written permission from parents and the school headteacher
- have the appropriate vehicle insurance for business use
- have the correct ratio of children/adults
- ensure that all passengers wear seat belts
- ensure booster seats are used according to the current legislation

Educational Visits and After-School Activities

Staff remain in a position of trust during school activities that take place off the school site or out of school hours and so, they will ensure that their behaviour cannot be interpreted as seeking to establish an inappropriate relationship or friendship.

Organisers will conduct risk assessments and adhere to Health and Safety guidelines. Staff/child ratios will be specified and where overnight stays are involved, and the composition of groups of children and the supervising staff will be carefully planned to keep all children and staff safe.

Where out of school activities include overnight stays, careful consideration will be given to sleeping arrangements as part of the planning process. Children, staff and parents will be informed of these arrangements prior to the start of the trip and any proposed changes to the plans will be agreed with senior staff in the school in advance. Staff will not smoke or consume alcohol on any school trip.

Health and Safety arrangements require members of staff to keep colleagues aware of their whereabouts, during an out of school activity. This means staff will always have another adult present in out of school activities, unless otherwise agreed with senior staff in the school.

Staff appearance *(Also applies to online and virtual teaching)*

Staff must dress smartly, in clothing appropriate to the role, compliant with professional standards and not likely to be viewed as offensive, revealing or sexually provocative. It should not distract, cause embarrassment or give rise to misunderstanding. Political or offensive slogans must be avoided.

Any staff with tattoos that might be viewed as offensive, provocative or likely to give rise to misunderstanding must ensure those tattoos always remain covered when that adult is working for the school.

Relationships between staff

At Our Lady Of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, we expect all staff to maintain the highest standards of professional conduct. To ensure a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for pupils, staff, and the wider community, we set out the following expectations regarding intimate relationships:

- Staff must maintain professional boundaries at all time, including when dealing with communication around the relationship with families and pupils.
- Where a close personal or intimate relationship exists or develops between colleagues, both parties must declare this relationship promptly to the Headteacher (or Chair of Governors, if the relationship involves the Headteacher). This declaration is required to manage potential conflicts of interest and ensure transparency, particularly where there may be a line management or supervisory relationship.
- The school will treat such information sensitively and with discretion, in line with data protection requirements.

The acceptable use of technologies

Staff must not engage in inappropriate use of social network sites which may bring themselves, the school, school community or employer into disrepute. Staff should ensure that they adopt suitably high security settings on any personal profiles they may have.

Staff must be circumspect in their use of **all** social media or any other web-based presence that they may have, including written content, videos or photographs, and views expressed directly or by association with websites/pages or posts established by others (e.g. 'liking', reposting or forwarding). This includes the use of dating websites where staff could encounter parents or students either with their own profile or acting covertly.

They must consider the long-term implications of any content published by them online, specifically how it might ever have an adverse effect:

- on their reputation as an individual working in an education setting
- their ability to maintain good professional boundaries with parents and with children
- on the reputation of the school.

Staff must not access any content from the internet on personal device during school hours, on the school site, or on a school computer or device at any time that could bring the school into disrepute or that might lead a reasonable person to question the staff member's motivation or intentions.

If staff become aware of misuse by another member of staff (in or out of school), they should escalate those concerns using the concerns and allegations against staff (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors) procedures.

Exceptional operating circumstances

If the school is required to change the way we offer our provision to children due to exceptional circumstances e.g. during a pandemic lockdown, staff safeguarding responsibilities to children will continue to apply, in line with the safeguarding policy.

The DSL will ensure staff, children, and families are provided with written:

- temporary changes to procedures for working with children e.g. online.

- timescales for such changes so that all children, families and staff understand when such arrangements will end, and arrangements revert to those in place prior to the events leading to the need for the temporary changes.

Photography and recording

Staff are not permitted to use their phones, cameras, smart technology, or any device that can be used for photographing or recording children, when on duty for any purpose. Phones are kept safely away from children. Any pictures taken of children by the school will be in accordance to the school mobile phone and camera procedures.

Staff will not:

- take images of a child's injury, bruising or similar (e.g. following a disclosure of abuse)
- make audio recordings of a child's disclosure.

5) Concerns and Allegations against staff (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors)

If a member of staff is concerned about the behaviour of a person working or volunteering at the school (including contractors), they will follow the agreed procedures set out in Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (September 2023).

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School operates a 'low-level' concerns policy in accordance with KCSIE 2024. 'Low-level' refers to behaviour that is: inconsistent with expectations set out in this policy, including inappropriate conduct outside of work, and/or does not meet the allegations threshold, or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

All concerns, no matter how small, will be shared responsibly and with the right person, recorded and dealt with promptly and appropriately. This will serve our commitment to create and embed a culture of openness, trust and transparency in which the school's values and expected behaviour set out in this policy are constantly lived, monitored and reinforced by all staff.

'Low-level' concerns could include, but are not limited to:

- being over friendly with children;
- having favourites;
- taking photographs of children on their mobile phone;
- engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door; or,
- using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating or offensive language.

We also encourage all staff to self-refer to their line manager or DSL where they have found themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, might appear compromising to others, and/or on reflection they believe they have behaved in such a way that they consider falls below the expected professional standards.

Whistleblowing

All staff and volunteers are expected and encouraged to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school safeguarding regime. All staff within the school who wish to raise an issue relating to the organisation with someone in confidence can use the following whistleblowing procedures:

In the first instance, concerns about poor or unsafe practice within must be raised with:

The Headteacher, Mrs Meg Wilson.

Where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with the Headteacher, or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistleblowing channels may be open to them:

- A member of the governing body: Mrs. Joan Curran (Chair of Governors)
- The [NSPCC whistleblowing helpline](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/whistleblowing/) is available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 or email: help@nspcc.org.uk

if:

- they think the concern will not be dealt with properly or
- may be covered up or
- if they raised a concern but it has not been acted upon or if they are worried they are being treated unfairly.

See Whistleblowing Policy

6) Training

All members of staff and volunteers have read and signed to confirm they understand this Staff Code of Conduct Policy.

Induction

The welfare of all children on roll is of paramount importance. All staff including volunteers are informed of this policy at induction and given the chance to question and discuss the expectations set out.

Staff support

Work in schools is both rewarding and demanding. We support staff by prioritising time to discuss the challenges of their role linked to any aspect of this Staff Behaviour Policy with their line manager and seek further support as appropriate.

7) Policy Review

The Governing Body will undertake a review of the school's Staff Code of Conduct Policy annually as part of its review of Safeguarding Policies. The school will remedy any deficiencies or weaknesses found without delay.

APPENDIX 1

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

STAFF DECLARATION TO ABIDE BY STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY



I agree to abide by Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary Staff Code of Conduct Policy for Teaching and Support Staff in Schools when I work inside – or on behalf of – Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

I have read and fully comprehend the contents of the Safeguarding Pack 2023.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

NAME: _____

POST: _____

These declarations will be collected and recorded on the centrally held declaration list.

APPENDIX 2

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

**VOLUNTEER / VISITOR DECLARATION TO ABIDE BY STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT
POLICY**



I agree to abide by Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary Staff Behaviour when I work inside – or on behalf of – Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

I have read and fully comprehend the contents of the Safeguarding Pack 2023.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

NAME: _____

POST: _____

These declarations will be collected and recorded on the centrally held declaration list.

APPENDIX 3

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNOR DECLARATION TO ABIDE BY STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY



I agree to abide by Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary Staff Code of Conduct Policy – For Teaching and Support Staff in Schools when I work inside – or on behalf of – Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

I have read and fully comprehend the contents of the Safeguarding Pack 2023.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

NAME: _____

FOUNDATION / PARENT / LA / ASSOCIATE: _____

These declarations will be collected and recorded on the centrally held declaration list.