Working together to keep every child safe

Community of Saints Church of England Federation | September 2026

Our commitment

We want every child at St Philip's to feel safe, valued, listened to and able to learn. Safeguarding means protecting children from harm, supporting their physical and emotional wellbeing and acting early when a family needs help.

What does safeguarding cover?

It includes concerns about abuse or neglect, bullying and harmful behaviour between children, online safety, mental health, attendance, safety on trips and risks outside school. We take all concerns seriously, including concerns about behaviour that may be dismissed as a joke.

How we keep children safe

Staff receive safeguarding training, follow clear reporting procedures and work with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). We use safer recruitment procedures, manage visitors carefully, teach children how to stay safe and listen to children's views. Safeguarding records are held securely and shared only when necessary.

If a child tells us something worrying

We listen calmly, take the child seriously and explain what may happen next. We cannot promise to keep a safeguarding concern secret. We record concerns and pass them promptly to the safeguarding team, which decides what support or referral may be needed.

Working with families

We aim to talk with parents and carers and work together to help children. Usually we will discuss concerns with you. Sometimes we must contact children's social care or another agency without first speaking to a parent if doing so could increase a child's risk. We may offer or coordinate Early Help support.

Attendance matters

We follow up unexplained absences and concerning patterns of lateness or non-attendance because regular contact with school helps us check that children are safe. Please tell school promptly when your child is absent and discuss any barriers to attendance with us.

Online safety and bullying

We teach children about online risks, respectful relationships and how to report something that makes them uncomfortable. We respond to bullying, cyberbullying and child-on-child abuse. Please tell us if you are worried about something your child has seen, received or experienced.

Who can I speak to?

You can contact your child's teacher, the Head of School or a safeguarding lead. At St Philip's, contact Shabana Esa (0161 226 2050); assistant safeguarding leads include Liam Tuohy and Carol Valentine.

What if I have an urgent concern?

If a child is in immediate danger, call 999. You can contact Manchester Children's Social Care Advice and Guidance Service on 0161 234 5001 or the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000. You do not need to wait for school to make a referral.

About this guide

This is a plain-language summary, not a replacement for the full Federation Safeguarding Policy (September 2026), which explains our detailed duties, procedures and arrangements.