

CHILD PROTECTION

The shared responsibility of all staff and visitors to the school.



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust

At St. Mary's First School, child protection is the highest priority for all staff. We are committed to protecting our children and safeguarding them in our schools.

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – Sarah Oakes**
- **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) – Rachel Baird**
- **Assistant Designated Safeguarding Leads –Mrs. Eleanor. Stoves (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead-Inclusion Support Manager)**
- **The Designated Safeguarding Governor – Mrs. Nicola Vaughan**



Northumberland
Strategic Safeguarding Partnership

If you have any concerns about a child, you can call
Northumberland's Onecall service:

01670 536400 (open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day)

RESPONDING TO CHILDREN WHO MAY BE IN NEED OF PROTECTION:

<u>ALWAYS</u>	<u>NEVER</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Believe● Stay Calm● Listen carefully to what they are saying and confirm back to them● Reassure● Tell the child what you are going to do and why● Refer using the appropriate forms (unless using CPOMS).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Agree to keep secrets or confidences● Make promises about outcomes● Question or interrogate● Doubt● Panic● Attach blame● Do nothing

NEVER INVESTIGATE, ALWAYS REFER

HOW TO REFER:

- If you have concerns, however insignificant you feel they may be, discuss them with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs Sarah Oakes), with the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Miss Rachel Baird) or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs. Eleanor. Stoves).
- If unsure, check procedures in the safeguarding policy or ring Northumberland's Onecall service on 01670 536400 (open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day).
- Ensure you have up to date details of the child's name, DOB, address and completed concern form (available from the school office).
- Referrals that do not meet the threshold for Children's Services may best be supported through an Early Help intervention – See a member of the safeguarding team listed above.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADULTS WORKING WITHIN OUR SCHOOL:

- Be professional; interact with children in an appropriate fashion.
- Avoid physical contact unless preventing a child from harming themselves or others. In other circumstances, discuss the issues with the DSL or refer to the school's intimate care policy.
- Be aware of, and follow, the school's safeguarding procedures.
- Discuss any concerns or questions you have, with the appropriate members of staff.

What do I do if I am worried about a child?

If you become concerned about:

- Something a child says*
- Marks or bruising on a child
- Changes in a child's behaviour or demeanour
- Changes in their presentation

OR

you feel that a child is at risk of significant harm:

USE THE REFERRAL PROCESS AS STATED ON PAGE 2

Everybody has a responsibility to keep all children under the age of 18 safe and this applies to both home and school environments.

The 4 main elements of abuse are identified below:

PHYSICAL – Hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning, suffocating.

EMOTIONAL – persistent, emotional ill treatment causing severe and adverse effects on a child's emotional development.

NEGLECT – persistent failure to meet basic physical and/or physiological needs likely to result in serious impairment of child's health/development.

SEXUAL – forcing or enticing to take part in sexual activities, physical sexual contact, looking at/producing pornography, watching sexual activity, encouraging inappropriate sexual behaviour.

It can be very difficult to match concerns to definitions.

IF IN DOUBT, ALWAYS REFER.

***includes extreme or radicalised political views**

Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership (NSSP)

- The NSSP represents and coordinates the work of statutory sector agencies and partners in the voluntary sector to safeguard and promote the well-being and welfare of children in Northumberland.
- The website contains information, advice, and contact details. If you are unsure about the wellbeing of a child, this is a good starting point.
- **PLEASE FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH THIS WEBSITE AND STORE IT IN YOUR FAVOURITES.**

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF:

- If you have concerns regarding the conduct of a member of staff, these should be reported to a member of the safeguarding team AND referred directly to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).
- This applies to all paid, unpaid, volunteers, casual, agency employees or anybody working in a self-employed capacity.
- The LADO is located within Children's Services and should be alerted to all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:
 - Behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child
 - Possibly committed a criminal offence against children, or related to a child
 - Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children

WHISTLE BLOWING

Each individual has a responsibility for raising concerns about unacceptable practise or behaviour:

- To prevent the problem worsening or widening
- To protect or reduce risk to others
- To prevent yourself becoming implicated

What stops people from whistle blowing?

- Fear of starting a chain of events which spirals out of control
- Disrupting the work or project
- Fear of getting it wrong
- Fear of repercussions or damaging careers
- Fear of not being believed

DON'T THINK, "WHAT IF I'M WRONG?" — THINK, "WHAT IF I'M RIGHT?"