



St. Mary's Catholic First School

Contextual Safeguarding

Safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside school and/or can occur between children outside the school. All staff consider the context within such incidents and/or behaviours occur. This is known as **contextual safeguarding**, which simply means assessments of children should consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. Regular updates are also shared about these in our weekly Newsletter to parents.

| Geographical factors | St. Mary's Catholic First School Response |
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| We have a close proximity to busy roads, the railway line and the river in Hexham. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All classes, during the academic year, receive assemblies regarding: road, cycling, water safety and on the dangers of playing near the railway line. About being out in the dark - be bright, be seen.• Staff take the children on local walks and teach them about all elements of keeping safe - road/river.• Road Safety sessions where the children have practical opportunities to practise being safe are accessed from the local authority• Swimming lessons are delivered to KS2 children. |
| Social and economic factors | St. Mary's Catholic First School Response |
| Pupils visit local play parks, sometimes with older siblings or children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We teach pupils about personal safety and making the right decisions to keep themselves safe regarding their behaviour beyond school. |
| Peer group factors | St. Mary's Catholic First School Response |
| Pupils have older siblings or other family members who may be influential to younger family members. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We teach pupils about personal safety and making the right decisions to keep themselves safe regarding their behaviour beyond school. |
| Home factors | St. Mary's Catholic First School Response |
| Lots of our pupils are connected to the internet at home and regularly use gaming devices to engage in online games with their friends. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Through our Computing Curriculum, pupils are taught about online safety.• We mark Safer Internet Day annually (February) & Anti-Bullying Day (May).• We use SENSO software to track all activity on school devices.• Parents are communicated through our regular Newsletters outlining any new developments in E-Safety.• Our Headteacher/DSLs keep up-to-date with CEOP developments; parents are able to contact school should they have any concerns.• Monthly E-Safety focus throughout the year. |