



## St Joseph's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy

### **Child protection policy – executive summary of key principles for staff and parents 2021-2022**

**Date of publication:** September 2021

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#### **Key principles**

1. St Joseph's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy for 2021-2022 (available on the school website) is consistent with statutory guidance **HM Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018** and **DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 (KCSiE)**; and local inter-agency safeguarding procedures issued by:  
  
North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NELSCP):  
<https://www.safernel.co.uk/nelsafeguarding-children-partnership/>
2. All staff and volunteers must read Part One of **DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021** or Annex A as decided by the Head teacher and St Therese of Lisieux Catholic Multi Academy Trust (STL CMAT). All SLT members and staff who work directly with children (e.g. teachers, teaching assistants, lunchtime supervisors, pastoral support staff) should also read Part Five and Annex A. All staff, supply staff and volunteers must have a full and active understanding of KCSiE 2021 Part One and or Annex A and all sections of the full school child protection policy - concerning child protection procedures, definitions, impact, indicators of abuse and referrals - in order to safeguard children at school effectively.
3. All staff including supply staff and volunteers will be safely recruited in-line with all legal requirements as outlined in KCSiE 2021 Part Three: Safer Recruitment, and STL CMAT will ensure our school creates a culture that is safe and safeguards the welfare of children. We will adopt robust recruitment procedures that deter and prevent people who are unsuitable to work with children from applying for or securing employment, or volunteering opportunities in our school.
4. St Joseph's seeks to ensure that only 'safe' staff and 'safe' supply teaching staff and volunteers are recruited and employed to work with children by adopting the advice and guidance provided locally by the STL CMAT HR Service. Safer Recruitment is embedded into our school's safeguarding culture through recruitment and induction processes and the ongoing management and support for all staff and volunteers.
5. All staff, teaching, supply, support staff and volunteers will be required to read the full Child Protection Policy and the STL CMAT Code of Conduct for Employees before starting work with children and will be informed of the procedures in place to address and manage any safeguarding concerns, allegations about staff members including low-level concerns.
6. This Executive Summary serves only as a brief reference point for staff, parents, supply teachers, volunteers, governors and other stakeholders and should be read alongside our school's Child Protection Policy 2021-2022 and Flow Chart which informs of the actions to be taken where there are concerns about a child inside and outside of the school environment.

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- 7 STL CMAT governors, school leaders, staff and volunteers have a responsibility to establish and maintain a culture of safeguarding in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children effectively and maintain an attitude '**it could happen here**' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff should always act in the '**best interests of the child**'.
- 8 Everyone who works in or with STL CMAT schools have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and respond to concerns, incidents, or disclosures and should **always** speak with the Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy DSL to inform them of any safeguarding or child protection concerns without delay.

At St Joseph's:

The Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Emily McCullagh

The Deputy DSL(s) are Kate Melling, Jayne Bradley, Claire McHugh

The SLT members who should be contacted in the DSL's absence are Kate Melling, Jayne Bradley, Claire McHugh

The safeguarding officer is Rachel Wilding

The Safeguarding Governor is Ruth Colley

The Trust Safeguarding Lead is:  
Robert della-Spina (Robert.della-Spina@stl-cmat.org.uk)

The Trust Board Safeguarding Lead is Clare McKenzie.

- 9 The Snr DSL will ensure that all staff including supply staff and volunteers receive a robust induction into St Joseph's safeguarding arrangements, which will include a requirement that they read the key statutory guidance and safeguarding policies including the Behaviour Policy, Peer on Peer (child on child) Abuse Policy and responses to on-line safety and children who go missing from education before starting work with children.
- 10 The Snr DSL will also ensure any contractors working at St Joseph's and visitors are informed of who to report any safeguarding concerns or incidents to whilst on the school site.
- 11 St Joseph's is committed to offering early help to those children who need it. Staff are trained to be vigilant and to record and report all concerns and issues that indicate a child may require early help or that there may be a safeguarding issue to the Snr DSL without delay.
- 12 The Snr DSL will consider all such concerns and issues and will make a judgement about whether to monitor the child's progress, discuss with parents/carers, provide pastoral care and support, offer early help or make appropriate referrals. The DSLs will record actions and decisions taken and referrals that are made. If early help is appropriate the Snr DSL will keep the case under constant review and refer cases to statutory safeguarding agencies where required and where appropriate support children and families to access support and additional help to support well-being and safety.
- 13 Our Designated Teacher is *Claire McHugh* and they will work with the local authority virtual school and the child's social worker to promote the educational achievement of registered pupils who are looked after and will continue to promote the educational achievement of children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders.

Our Designated Teacher will have the appropriate training and relevant qualifications and

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experience to carry out the role and responsibilities required and maintain an up to date understanding of the needs of children with looked after status.

- 14 At St Joseph's staff recognise that some children are particularly vulnerable and therefore more likely to require early help or safeguarding. Those children include children with special educational needs and disabilities; those who are looked after by a local authority or were previously looked after; those living in families experiencing adult substance abuse, adult mental ill health and/or domestic abuse; and children showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour.
- 15 St Joseph's is committed to supporting improving the mental health and well-being of all children *we will do this by our commitment to therapeutic teaching and behaviour management following a connection and regulation policy which focuses on feelings, wellbeing and mental health to promote good mental health.*
- 16 St Joseph's recognises that children who run away, go missing and/or are absent from school are potentially vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, offending and placing themselves and possibly others (friends) in situations where they may suffer physical harm, abuse or risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE), criminal child exploitation (CCE) or at risk of being radicalised or exploited.
- 17 St Joseph's will therefore work actively in partnership with parents/carers and other agencies to understand and improve poor school attendance and address issues of children running away and going missing from home.
- 18 St Joseph's has a duty to teach children about safeguarding and how to understand and recognise risk (on-line and off-line) and the support available to them; as part of a 'broad and balanced curriculum'. This will include Relationships Education and Health education compulsory from September 2020 and should be taught in schools from September 2021.
- 19 The STL CMAT **Whistleblowing** policy enables staff to raise concerns or allegations, initially in confidence, and for a sensitive enquiry to take place. Staff are expected to report all concerns about poor practice or possible child abuse by colleagues to the headteacher, including low-level concerns.  
Concerns or complaints about the headteacher should be reported to the Chair of the STL CMAT. Staff can also contact the Designated Officer in the Local Authority (LADO), who is responsible for the coordination of responses to allegations against people who work with children.

The LADO can be contacted on Tel:

- North East Lincolnshire 01472326118

For staff who do not feel able to raise concerns internally, advice and support can be accessed through the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline Tel: 0800 028 0285.

- 20 All staff including the headteacher, supply teachers, volunteers and governors will receive appropriate and regularly updated safeguarding and child protection information, guidance, and at least annual dedicated safeguarding training to provide them with the requisite skills and knowledge to safeguard children and maintain and revise where required, appropriate 'safeguarding arrangements' in our school.
- 21 The Snr DSL and deputy DSLs will attend bespoke training for newly appointed DSLs and refresher training through their appropriate Local Authority. In addition, new DSLs are advised to attend the NSCP Working Together to Safeguard Children course which compliments the DSL training and informs of the arrangements for child protection conferences, reviews and core group meetings, ensuring all our DSLs are fully conversant with the principles of good

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safeguarding partnership practices to keep children safe and respond to safeguarding and child protection concerns.

- 22 The Snr DSL and deputy DSLs will also update their knowledge and skills at least annually (as a minimum) to keep up to date with new safeguarding developments and guidance relevant to their role. The Snr DSL or one of the deputy DSLs will look to attending any LA's DSL Focus Group network & STL DSL meetings to cascade information and any updates to guidance back to the DSL team and all school staff. All DSLs will also attend, where appropriate, other safeguarding training opportunities to ensure their knowledge and experience in safeguarding remains current and can address any emerging threats.
- 23 Child protection issues warrant a high level of confidentiality. Staff will ensure confidentiality protocols are adhered to and information is shared appropriately. Although staff will discuss day-to-day concerns about pupils with colleagues, they should report all child protection and safeguarding concerns to the Snr DSL or headteacher or – in the case of concerns about the headteacher – to the chair of governors. However, any member of staff can contact and/or make a referral to NELSCP. New concerns/disclosures for children not already open to social care should be made to the NELSCP. For cases already open to social care and the child has an allocated social worker, contact should be made directly with the social worker or social work team, if it is believed that it is the only effective way to safeguard a child.

Our school will support social workers and other agencies following any referrals for a child or family.

- 24 St Joseph's acknowledges that we have clear powers to share, hold and use information to tackle all forms of abuse and neglect, to promote children's welfare and their educational outcomes. All staff, including supply teachers and volunteers must be mindful of specific requirements in relation to the use of technology including on-line behaviour and the taking, storing and use of images of children. All staff must be conversant and be able to apply GDPR guidance and information sharing procedures in-line with statutory guidance and STL CMAT procedures.
- 25 The Snr DSL is responsible for ensuring that all staff, including supply teachers and volunteers have a meaningful awareness of a range of specific safeguarding issues and vulnerabilities as defined in Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021, and be able to discharge their responsibilities for children effectively by raising concerns with appropriate staff and or the DSL team to keep children safe. All staff will need to understand issues and risks in relation to physical and mental health and well-being, criminal child exploitation, gang and knife crime, serious youth violence, radicalisation, extremism, and child sexual exploitation.
- 26 The Snr DSL will ensure all staff understand the seriousness of peer on peer abuse (also known as child on child abuse) and the indicators and risks associated with children who display sexually violent and sexually harmful behaviours, or inappropriate behaviour including sexting or other forms of on-line abuse or behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking and or alcohol misuse, and consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images and /or videos can be signs that children are at risk, or inappropriate behaviour including sexting.
- 27 The Snr DSL will ensure all staff including supply staff and volunteers are aware of how to respond and report any indicators or incidents of peer on peer also known as 'child on child' abuse, so that actions can be taken swiftly and effectively to ensure children can be kept safe. We acknowledge that it can happen both inside and outside of school and online and all staff have a responsibility to report **any** concerns regarding peer on peer abuse to the designated safeguarding lead or one of the deputy DSLs. We understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between peers that are actually abusive in nature and not dismiss them as "just banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up". We will adopt the

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Government statutory guidance for a **'zero tolerance'** approach to abuse, and will hold to account and challenge anyone who acts in a way which harms children or situations which could lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children for children and in worst case scenario a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it. See St Joseph's Safeguarding Policy and *KCSiE 2021 paragraphs 46 to 52. Part five- Child on Child sexual violence and sexual harassment and DfE advice Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children in Schools and Colleges in KCSiE 2021 page 3.*

- 28 St Joseph's acknowledges the specific legal duty placed on teachers should they become aware that an act of FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18 **for the teacher to report to the police**. The Snr DSL will ensure all staff, but particularly all with teacher status, are conversant with the procedures required of mandatory reporting for concerns and risks related to honour-based abuse, female genital mutilation, forced marriage and 'up skirting' which all have a mandatory reporting requirement. All teaching staff will complete FGM training in line with statutory guidance.
- 29 St Joseph's acknowledges technology brings many benefits to our school, staff, and *pupils/students* but we also recognise the risks and harms related to the use of technology, the internet and social media platforms which evolve and change rapidly. In accordance with Government guidance we will carry out an annual review of our online safety, supported by an annual risk assessment that considers and reflects the risk children can face. We will continue to ensure appropriate levels of security protection are in place, to safeguard our systems, staff and learners and review the effectiveness of our procedures to keep up to date with evolving cyber-crime technologies. We will ensure our learners and parents/carers are kept informed especially where remote learning is required and out in place.
- 30 St Joseph's acknowledges the requirements placed on our school for children who have complex needs and attend alternative provision. For those children we will ensure the alternative education provider is aware of any additional risks that the child may be vulnerable to, support the child's engagement, attendance, and maintenance of their education provision.
- 31 Where a parent or carer expresses their intention to remove a child from St Joseph's with a view to educating at home, we will work together with key professionals to coordinate meetings with parents/carers where possible and carry out the required arrangements detailed in the Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations September 2016, before *deleting the child from our admission register and before a child is taken off roll.*