

# St James CE Primary School

## Safeguarding Update Autumn 2023-2024

### WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Team straight away.

The following members of staff are part of the Safeguarding Team at St James CE:

- Mrs Briers (DSL)
- Mrs Young (DDSL)
- Mrs Conant (DDSL)
- Mr Hardy

They can be contacted via the school office, or by telephone on 01744 678545

Safeguarding Governor:

Mr William Wiswell

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For a copy of our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding 2023 Policy, please visit the 'Safeguarding' page on our school website.



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first edition of our parent safeguarding newsletter. This newsletter is designed to support parents in deepening their understanding of safeguarding issues that may affect their child, themselves, or members of their local community.

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every single person who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

You will see on the left-hand side of this page information about who to speak to if you have concerns about a child's safety or welfare, however all our staff are trained in safeguarding if you want to discuss any concerns with them.

If you have any questions, please do ask.

Mrs Briers (Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead)

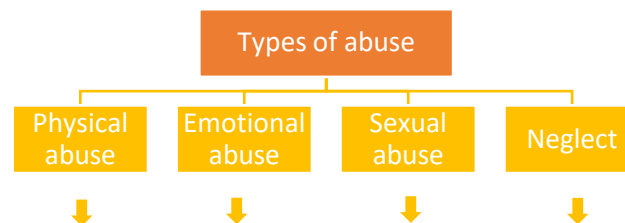
### Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023

Keeping Children Safe in Education is a statutory Department for Education document, which all schools must follow when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It covers many aspects of safeguarding including different forms of abuse, early help processes, safe recruitment, how concerns must be reported and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Leads.

[Click here](#) for the full document.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes



Report any concerns

If you suspect a child is being abused or is in danger of being abused, please contact a Designated Safeguarding Lead, or any member of staff. You can also contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01744 676767

**If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999.**



## Online Safety

Using online facilities to help with learning, stay connected with others and to give some 'down time' is part of all our lives, but it is important that we all know how to keep children safe when doing so. We would like to draw your attention to the [Net Aware](#) website, which has superb guides to the most popular apps, games and social media sites, along with strategies for how to keep your child safe when online.

### Did you know?

All social networking platforms and apps have minimum age limits. Some social networks use technologies that might not be appropriate for some ages or engage with communities that are made up of people much older than your child.

### What are the risks of an underage social networking account?

- Many sites include an instant message function which allows private conversations. Not everyone your child meets online will be who they say they are.
- Most social networking sites have an app version, meaning your child will have access to the social network from their smartphone or tablet. **Some app versions of social networks use the location of the phone.**
- Chat rooms and forums can connect people who are complete strangers and can be un-moderated.
- Information shared between friends can be easily copied and may spread.
- It is not easy to take back information that has been posted – and can be impossible if it has already been shared.
- Chat rooms and forums are one of the places online groomers go to connect with children. They can also be places where people use inappropriate language. This is sometimes done through video chat programmes.

### What can I do to keep my child safe?

1. **Think about online routines:** Have a conversation with your child about online safety and agree some rules to help keep them safe. Discuss with them when to unfollow, block or report. For help starting this conversation, follow the link: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/having-an-open-and-honest-conversation-about-online-safety-5-questions-for-parents>
2. **Have a conversation about online pressures and cyberbullying:** Remember to talk to your child about what they are doing online and to whom they are talking. Check in with them regularly and remind them they can talk to you, another trusted adult, like a teacher, or a [ChildLine counsellor](#) about anything they are worried about.
3. **Set up devices safely:** Make sure you set it up with your child, exploring any safety features. Remember to use parental controls!
4. **Keep children safe on conferencing apps:** Supervise your child when they use these apps; remind your child not to share chat links or passwords on social media; explore any security features like how to report and block; talk to your child about what they are sharing.
5. **Make sure they know where to go for support:** Remind your child they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset. Remind them that they will not be in trouble at that you are there to help. For a breakdown of report services, visit: <https://www.internetmatters.org/report-issue/>
6. **Useful online safety websites for parents:**  
National Online Safety – safety guides on ALL aspects of internet use <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>  
Internet Matters – wide range of online safety advice for parents to keep their children safe on-line. <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

## How can my child report any concerns?

Did you know that each class has a system for your child to report how they are feeling to their class teacher? Each class has a 'Worry' boxes, and some of the younger classes have more visual ways of the children expressing if they have a concern to share. We check these regularly and discuss any issues with the children, so that they know they are being listened to and their concerns are being taken seriously.

*Remember! You can always speak to your child's class teacher if you have any safeguarding concerns.*

## What is a Designated Safeguarding Lead?

Governing bodies should ensure that the school or college designates an appropriate senior member of staff to take lead responsibility for child protection. Key aspects of the 'Designated Safeguarding Lead' role include:

- Making sure all staff are aware how to raise safeguarding concerns
- Ensuring all staff understand the symptoms of child abuse and neglect
- Referring any concerns to social care
- Monitoring children who are the subject of child protection plans
- Maintaining accurate and secure child protection records
- Raising awareness of the school's safeguarding policies and procedures, and ensuring they are implemented and reviewed regularly

**Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Briers who can be contacted via the school Office to discuss any safeguarding concerns you may have.**

## Attendance and Punctuality

**OUR SCHOOL TARGET FOR 2023-2024 OUR TARGET IS 97%**

**Please help us to achieve our aspirational target of 97% by the academic year and NOT to take holidays during term time**

### PUNCTUALITY

At St James CE punctuality remains a **high priority** with the Leadership Team and staff. We firmly believe it is essential that children attend school punctually if they are to achieve their potential. Lateness not only adversely affects a child's attainment but also their personal and social skills and makes it difficult for them to settle for the day.

We have now fully implemented the '**staggered soft start**' for all children. Children go directly up to their classes for early morning activities after the gates have opened.

### NOTIFYING THE SCHOOL IF YOUR CHILD IS ILL

If your child is sick, please notify the school by **8:45am each day (01744 678545)**. Please do not take offence if the school telephones to find out where your child is if we have not heard from you. This is our standard procedure and an important part of our commitment to safeguarding children and promoting their well-being.

### PARENT / CARER CONTACT INFORMATION

If any of your **contact details** change it is **very important** that you inform the school immediately, including email addresses. In the event of an emergency, we will go to the contact stored on the system.

### ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES: REMINDER

If your child requires medicine to be administered during the school day, please come into the school office, and complete a medical form. **All medicines are to be left at the Office Reception** where they will be safely stored.

**Thank you for your support in helping us to keep your child safe whilst in our care.**

*Remember! You can always speak to your child's class teacher if you have any safeguarding concerns.*