



St James & St John Church of England School

Safeguarding Statement

At St James & St John Church of England School, the health, safety and well-being of children is of paramount concern to us. We listen to our pupils and take seriously what they tell us. Our aim is for children to enjoy their time as pupils in this school. We want to work in partnership with you to help your child achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution to the world they will be part of in the future. Our policies relating to safeguarding applies to all adults including volunteers working in or on behalf of the school.

To promote a safe environment for pupils, our selection and recruitment policy includes all checks on staff and regular volunteers' suitability, including Disclosure and Barring Service checks, as recommended by Buckinghamshire Council as governed by current legislation.

In accordance with our responsibilities under section 175/157 of the Education Act 2002 and "Keeping Children safe in Education" – September 2021, we have a **Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection (Mrs Louise Woods and a deputy (Miss Rosie Thompson), the designated Governor is Pearl Slater**. All have received appropriate and up to date training for this role. It is their responsibility to ensure that all staff in contact with children received child protection awareness training on a regular basis.

We are committed to:

- establishing and maintaining an ethos where children feel safe, secure, valued and respected, and are encouraged to talk openly and are always listened to
- ensuring that all children know there is an adult in school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty
- including opportunities in the PSHCE and wider curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from harm.

The staff are aware that it is their responsibility to be alert to the signs of abuse and to follow the procedures set out in the school's Child protection Policy.

Occasions do arise when our concern about a child requires us to consult other agencies. Whilst we would always aim to work in partnership with parents there may be exceptions to this, when concerns are raised for the protection of a child. The role of the school in situations where there are child protection concerns is not to investigate but to recognise and refer.

On very rare occasions Social Care, whilst undertaking an investigation under s47 of the Children Act 1989, may want to speak to a child without the parent's knowledge. This would be a decision made in collaboration with partner agencies and would only be done in situations where a child might be at immediate risk. To gain consent at this point may increase the level of risk to the child or cause evidence of a crime to be lost.

The procedures, which we follow, have been laid down by the Local safeguarding Children's Board, and the school has adopted a Child protection Policy in line with this for the safety of all. If you want to know more about our procedures, please speak to the Headteacher, Louise Woods, or your child's class teacher: the Policy can be found on the school website.