

St Philip's Catholic Primary School

Safeguarding Children Statement

Autumn 2026

Review: Autumn 2027



DSL: Mrs Ellie Taylor
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Safeguarding Statement

At St Philip's Catholic School, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people. We believe that every child has the right to feel safe, be protected from harm, and achieve their full potential. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and all staff, governors, volunteers, visitors, and contractors have a role to play in keeping children safe. We adopt a child-centred approach and always act in the best interests of the child.

We recognise that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge;
- protecting children from maltreatment, whether that occurs within or outside the home, including online;
- 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.

Child protection is part of safeguarding and refers to the activities undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

The safety, wellbeing and welfare of our pupils are paramount. We are committed to creating and maintaining a strong safeguarding culture in which children are encouraged to talk, are listened to, and know that their concerns will be taken seriously. We recognise the importance of early identification of concerns and effective information sharing to ensure children receive the right help at the right time.

We ensure that current safeguarding legislation, statutory guidance and local safeguarding partnership procedures are followed and reflected within our policies, procedures and practices. This includes compliance with Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026), Working Together to Safeguard Children, and other relevant statutory guidance.

St Philip's Catholic School provides a safe and secure environment for pupils, staff and visitors. Appropriate health and safety arrangements are in place to ensure compliance with current legislation and guidance. We are committed to maintaining effective site security, risk assessment procedures and safeguarding arrangements for both onsite and offsite activities.

Safer Recruitment

The school operates safer recruitment procedures that help deter, reject or identify people who may pose a risk to children. Recruitment and selection procedures include:

- scrutiny of employment history;
- obtaining and verifying references;
- verification of identity and qualifications;
- checks of the right to work in the UK;
- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks at the appropriate level;
- prohibition, section 128 and other relevant checks where applicable; and
- exploration of applicants' suitability to work with children during the interview process.

At least one member of every recruitment panel will have completed appropriate safer recruitment training.

All staff, governors, volunteers and contractors working within school are subject to safeguarding and vetting procedures appropriate to their role. Enhanced DBS checks will be undertaken where required by statutory guidance and legislation.

Single Central Record

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and School Business Manager/School Secretary are responsible for maintaining and monitoring the school's Single Central Record (SCR). The SCR is securely stored and regularly reviewed to ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

The school has an appropriately trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who takes lead responsibility for child protection and safeguarding. The DSL is supported by trained Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs) who will carry out the role in the DSL's absence. Adequate safeguarding leadership and cover arrangements are maintained at all times.

Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

The school has robust safeguarding, child protection and reporting procedures in place, including systems for recording, monitoring and responding to concerns. Safeguarding is reflected across a range of school policies, including:

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
Behaviour Policy
Anti-Bullying Policy
Attendance Policy
Staff Code of Conduct
Online Safety Policy
Acceptable Use Agreements
Health and Safety Policy
Administration of Medicines Policy
Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
Physical Intervention/Positive Handling Policy
Educational Visits Policy
Recruitment and Selection Policy
Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy
PSHE Policy
Equality Policy
Low-Level Concerns Policy
Allegations Against Staff Policy
Whistleblowing Policy
Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism Policy
Complaints Procedure

This list is not exhaustive, and safeguarding responsibilities underpin all school policies and procedures.

Staff Training

All staff receive safeguarding and child protection training, including online safety training, as part of their induction. Staff receive regular safeguarding updates and are required to read and understand Part One of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026.

Staff training ensures that all adults understand their responsibilities for identifying concerns, responding appropriately, and reporting concerns promptly.

Governance and Oversight

The Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team maintain strategic oversight of safeguarding arrangements and ensure that safeguarding remains effective. Governors receive appropriate safeguarding training and regularly review safeguarding practice, policies and procedures to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and continuous improvement.

Theresa Horan is the nominated Governor with responsibility for safeguarding.