



ST ANTHONY'S PSA

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

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Reg Charity #: 1182582



## Safeguarding Policy St Anthonys PSA

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## Safeguarding Policy for Parent School Association (PSA)

### 1. Introduction

The Parent School Association (PSA) is committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of all children and young people involved in our activities. We believe that children and young people have the right to feel safe, secure, and respected at all times. This Safeguarding Policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding and protecting children and young people from harm and to promoting their well-being.

This policy is in line with the relevant legislation, including the Children Act 1989 and 2004, Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018), and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022), and follows the guidance from local safeguarding boards.

### 2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all PSA members, volunteers, and anyone involved in PSA-run activities, including but not limited to:

- School events organized by the PSA
- Fundraising activities
- School trips and outings
- Social and community events

### 3. Roles and Responsibilities

The PSA will:

- Ensure that all members, volunteers, and staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and receive appropriate training.
- Promote a culture of respect, openness, and trust.
- Encourage any concerns or allegations regarding child protection or safeguarding to be reported immediately and respond promptly and appropriately.



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- Safeguard personal information in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and ensure all data is kept confidential.

The designated **Safeguarding Lead** for the PSA is Joanne Walsh, who has the appropriate training and will have the responsibility of:

- Overseeing the implementation of this policy.
- Responding to any concerns or incidents of safeguarding.
- Liaising with relevant agencies, such as the local authority safeguarding team, when necessary.
- Ensuring that all members, volunteers, and staff are aware of how to report concerns.

#### 4. Safe Recruitment Practices

The PSA will ensure that:

- All volunteers, staff, and any individuals involved in PSA activities undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, as required organised by the school.
- All individuals involved in the PSA have a safe recruitment process, including verifying references.
- The recruitment process includes safeguarding as a key consideration.

#### 5. Code of Conduct

The PSA expects all members, volunteers, and staff to:

- Treat all children, young people, and adults with respect, fairness, and dignity.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries in all interactions with children and young people.
- Not engage in any form of physical or verbal abuse, bullying, or inappropriate behaviour.
- Not engage in any sexual or inappropriate physical contact with children or young people.
- Never leave a child unattended or unsupervised.



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## **6. Reporting Concerns**

If any individual involved in PSA activities has concerns about the safety or welfare of a child, they must report it immediately to the PSA Safeguarding Lead and to the designated safeguarding lead at the school.

Concerns may include, but are not limited to:

- Physical, sexual, or emotional abuse.
- Neglect.
- Inappropriate behaviour towards a child.
- Signs of bullying or exploitation.

All concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon promptly in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures and local safeguarding board guidelines.

## **7. Training and Awareness**

The PSA will ensure that:

- All members, volunteers, and staff receive safeguarding training as part of their induction process.
- Ongoing safeguarding training is provided for all involved in PSA activities.
- Relevant safeguarding materials are accessible to all members and volunteers.

## **8. Risk Assessment**

The PSA will assess the risk of harm for each event, ensuring appropriate measures are in place to safeguard children. These assessments will cover areas such as:

- Supervision of children during PSA activities and events.
- First aid provision.
- Safe use of equipment and materials.
- Emergency evacuation procedures.



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## **9. Online Safeguarding**

The PSA is committed to ensuring that children and young people are safe when using digital platforms related to PSA activities. We will:

- Ensure any online activity organised by the PSA (such as virtual meetings or events) is conducted in a safe and secure environment.
- Promote digital safety awareness for children, parents, and staff.
- Use secure online platforms and take steps to protect children's personal information.

## **10. Allegations Against PSA Members, Volunteers, or Staff**

If an allegation is made against a PSA member, volunteer, or staff member regarding child protection or safeguarding concerns, the PSA will:

- Ensure the allegation is taken seriously and investigated in line with safeguarding procedures.
- Ensure that the individual is treated fairly, with due consideration for their rights, and that the process is transparent.
- Cooperate fully with any external investigations carried out by the local authority or other agencies.

## **11. Monitoring and Review**

The PSA will regularly review and evaluate its safeguarding policy and procedures to ensure they remain effective and in line with best practices. The policy will be reviewed annually, and any changes will be communicated to all members, volunteers, and staff involved in PSA activities.

## **12. Confidentiality**

The PSA recognises the sensitive nature of safeguarding concerns and will ensure that all information regarding allegations or concerns is treated confidentially and shared only with those who need to know in order to protect the child and manage the situation appropriately.



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### 13. Conclusion

The PSA is committed to the safety and well-being of all children and young people involved in its activities. This safeguarding policy reflects our commitment to creating a safe, supportive, and respectful environment for all children and young people, where they can learn, grow, and thrive without fear of harm or abuse.

**Signed:**

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[Name]  
[Role/Position]  
[Date]



## Appendix 1

### Signs and Types of Child Abuse

Child abuse is a devastating experience that can have long-lasting effects on a child's emotional, physical, and mental well-being. It's important to be aware of the different signs and types of child abuse to recognize and protect children from harm. Below are the main types of abuse and the signs to look for.

#### 1. Physical Abuse

Physical abuse involves intentionally causing harm to a child through physical force or actions. It may include hitting, shaking, burning, or any other actions that harm or threaten to harm the child.

##### Signs of Physical Abuse:

- Unexplained injuries, such as bruises, burns, cuts, or fractures.
- Frequent hospital visits for injuries that don't have a clear explanation.
- Wearing inappropriate clothing to cover up injuries (e.g., long sleeves in hot weather).
- Flinching or being overly cautious around adults or certain individuals.
- Fear of going home or fear of certain people.
- Aggressive behaviour, or being overly compliant or withdrawn.

#### 2. Emotional or Psychological Abuse

Emotional abuse involves actions that harm a child's self-esteem, emotional well-being, and sense of security. It can include verbal abuse, belittling, threats, and constant criticism, among others.

##### Signs of Emotional Abuse:

- Constantly feeling worthless or unloved.
- Extreme changes in behaviour, such as becoming very anxious, depressed, or withdrawn. Overly fearful or anxious behaviour, often anticipating harm or criticism.



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- Difficulty forming relationships or trusting others.
- Developmental delays or regressed behaviours (e.g., bedwetting, thumb-sucking).
- Difficulty with emotional regulation (e.g., extreme anger or sadness).

### **3. Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse involves any type of sexual contact or behavior with a child. This could include direct sexual assault, exposure to inappropriate content, or grooming behaviors.

#### **Signs of Sexual Abuse:**

- Difficulty walking or sitting, pain in the genital area.
- Bruises, bleeding, or other injuries to the genital or anal areas.
- Age-inappropriate knowledge of sexual behavior or terms.
- Fear of a particular person or reluctance to be around certain adults.
- Bedwetting or other regressive behaviors.
- Sudden mood swings, depression, or withdrawal from social situations.
- Unexplained gifts or money from an adult (indicating possible grooming).
- STIs or pregnancy in older children.

### **4. Neglect**

Neglect is the failure to provide for a child's basic physical, emotional, and educational needs. This could include failing to provide food, shelter, medical care, or supervision.

#### **Signs of Neglect:**

- Consistently being hungry or malnourished.
- Poor hygiene, such as unkempt hair, dirty clothes, or body odor.
- Lack of adequate clothing for weather conditions.
- Frequent absences from school or a noticeable decline in performance.
- Untreated medical issues or lack of necessary medical care.
- A child who seems overly eager to please others or is very self-sufficient.
- Lack of emotional support, affection, or attention from caregivers.



## 5. Child Exploitation

Child exploitation involves manipulating or coercing a child to engage in illegal or harmful activities for the benefit of someone else. This can include child labor, trafficking, or use in criminal activity.

### Signs of Child Exploitation:

- Sudden, unexplained wealth or possession of items beyond the child's means.
- Frequent contact with adults who are not family members.
- A child spending a lot of time with older individuals, especially those who are unfamiliar.
- Signs of physical abuse or neglect (as exploitation often overlaps with neglect).
- Avoiding school, or frequent changes in school attendance or living arrangements.

## 6. Domestic Violence Exposure

Although not directly abuse to the child, witnessing domestic violence can severely impact a child's well-being. Exposure to violent behavior between caregivers or adults in the household can be emotionally harmful and lead to trauma.

### Signs of Domestic Violence Exposure:

- Behavioural changes, such as becoming fearful, anxious, or aggressive.
  - Difficulty sleeping or nightmares.
  - Fear of going home or specific household members.
  - Withdrawal from friends and family.
  - A tendency to copy abusive behaviour or engage in bullying.
  - Increased emotional distress, including depression or anger.
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## Appendix 2

### What to Do if You Suspect Abuse:

If you suspect a child is being abused, it's crucial to act immediately:

- **Listen carefully:** If the child talks about their abuse or discloses information, remain calm and offer reassurance that they are not to blame. Explain that you will need to discuss this with someone else.
- **Report any suspicion of abuse to the school and PSA Safeguarding Lead**
- **Report it:** In the UK, you can contact local authorities, such as the **NSPCC helpline** (0808 800 5000) or **local children's services**.
- **Support the child:** Offer emotional support and let them know you believe them and that help is available.
- **Document concerns:** Keep a detailed, factual record of any observations or disclosures. This may be useful for professionals handling the case.

Remember, protecting a child from abuse is a shared responsibility, and early intervention can make a significant difference in ensuring the child's safety and recovery.