



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

St Mary's School Shaftesbury Trust (the School) fully recognises its responsibility to safeguarding children and is committed to taking all reasonable measures to ensure that risks to its pupils' welfare are minimised.

Promoting welfare involves 'creating opportunities to enable children to have optimum life chances in adulthood' – Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (Government guidance 2000). The Governing Body will act in accordance with Section 175 (or Section 157, for Independent Schools) of the Education Act 2002 and the supporting statutory guidance DfE Guidance '*Keeping Children Safe in Education (April 2014)*' to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in this school.

The School aims to:

- Provide a safe educational environment for pupils.
- Maintain vigilance in detecting abuse and operate clear procedures for all staff to follow in cases of suspected abuse.
- Ensure that pupils who are vulnerable, at risk and/or likely to suffer significant harm are identified and appropriate action is taken to keep them safe.
- Monitor effectively pupils who are vulnerable or at risk.
- Promote an ethos in which pupils feel safe, feel able to talk openly and are listened to.
- Prevent unsuitable people working with children.
- Promote, and share with parents and pupils, safe practice.
- Ensure that all parents and guardians are aware of the School's child protection responsibilities.
- Ensure that proper written records are kept and maintained confidentially of any child protection concerns and cases.

All those who are to be employed by the School or who will come into regular unsupervised contact with pupils as volunteers are subject to enhanced checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service. Depending on the post this may include a check on the children's barred list. A rigorous checking of history, qualifications and references will also be undertaken by the School before offering anyone employment.



Appropriate general training on Child Protection issues will be provided at regular intervals to all members of staff and specialist training will be attended by the designated contact in accordance with statutory requirements.

All referrals to the Disclosure & Barring Service or any other appropriate body must be made through the Designated Child Protection Contact, Mrs Sarah Matthews, the Deputy Head or in her absence through the Director of Wellness, Mrs Louise Phillips. If both are absent for any reason the Headmistress would be the person to contact with any concerns.

Any member of staff who has knowledge or suspicion that a pupil is suffering significant harm or is at risk of significant harm should refer their concerns immediately to the designated contact. It is not appropriate for staff to conduct any kind of investigation or to ask leading questions of a pupil. It is not possible to promise a pupil confidentiality as one is obliged to pass on information if a pupil may be at risk. However, child protection issues should never be discussed with anyone other than the designated contact (or later the official investigation team). Full guidance is available in the School's Child Protection Policy.