

# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

'Love God, Love Others, Love Ourselves'



## eSafety Policy

<b>Date of Ratification:</b>  September 2017		<b>Signed:</b>   <b>Ms Philomena Egan (HEAD TEACHER)</b>   <b>Mrs Sherron Alexander-Bedingfield (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)</b>
<b>Review date:</b>  Spring 2020		<b>Signed:</b>   <b>Ms Philomena Egan (HEAD TEACHER)</b>   <b>Mrs Sherron Alexander-Bedingfield (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)</b>

### Safeguarding Statement

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

At St Mary’s Catholic Primary School we enjoy technology and seek to provide the best learning experiences to our pupils by harnessing ICT. Whilst doing this we recognise the need to safeguard our pupils and staff when using technology. We seek to remain vigilant as we embrace new technologies and their potential benefits to learning.

St Mary’s Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding adults and children who access our provision. We recognise the online world presents many benefits and opportunities for learning but there are also risks that we need to be aware of and seek to safeguard against. As such this eSafety policy is a key element of our safeguarding approach. Whilst St Mary’s Catholic Primary School takes every precaution we acknowledge it is not possible to block or ban all the potential dangers of using the internet or existing/emerging technology. Therefore, our eSafety approach includes strong system safety measures but recognises education and preparation of children using technology is equally a key element of ensuring safety. This includes use of online, communication and digital technologies.

The table below demonstrates how eSafety risks can be classified in three key areas- content, contact and conduct. These risks are often determined by behaviours rather than the technologies themselves. (Safer Children in a Digital World –the report of the Byron review. DCSF, 2008)

	Commercial	Aggressive	Sexual	Values
Content (child as recipient)	Adverts Spam Sponsorship Personal info	Violent/hateful content	Pornographic or unwelcome sexual content	Bias Racist Misleading info or advice
Contact (child as participant)	Tracking Harvesting personal info	Being bullied, harassed or stalked	Meeting strangers Being groomed	Self-harm Unwelcome persuasions
Conduct (child as actor)	Illegal downloading Hacking Gambling Financial scams Terrorism	Bullying or harassing another	Creating and uploading inappropriate material	Providing misleading info/advice

(taken from Safeguarding Children Online, Becta 2009)

St Mary’s Catholic Primary School has clear systems and procedures to assist in keeping our pupils safe:

- Named persons for Safeguarding/ Child Protection, Ms Philomena Egan and Mrs Anne Cullinan, to whom any eSafety concerns should be reported;
- Robust system technology/networks with measures to filter and protect content access. All computers are virus protected and access virus updates throughout the day. All wireless access to the school’s network is password protected;
- Policy, protocols and training to ensure our staff are fully aware of eSafety risks and support best practice whilst in a supervisory role. Staff laptops are encrypted to ensure data protection;
- An ethos where pupils feel they can access support and guidance where they have concerns or worries and where sharing of information will be positively received. (note: cyberbullying is included in our Anti-bullying policy);
- Signing school’s ICT/eSafety Acceptable Use policy and agreements to ensure all pupils are aware and understand eSafety expectations. All year groups receive eSafety information and guidance appropriate to their age;
- Curriculum content which supports eSafety with multi-agency input as required;
- Parent/carer eSafety training and information sessions each academic year;
- A named ICT/eSafety coordinator who monitors policy implementation and system usage.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School believe it is important that families are eSafety literate and are informed about the benefits and risks in using technology. Each academic year school offers an eSafety information/training session for parents/carers. Parents/Carers are expected to support the ICT/eSafety Acceptable Use Policy and support their child/children to behave appropriately whilst using technology as they share responsibility for setting standards and guiding children in using the Internet safely and responsibly. We encourage them to supervise Internet access at home and take an active interest in how their children are using technology.

### **Health and Safety Checklist**

Below are points that need to be followed by the E-Safety leader to ensure that children's online health and safety is safeguarded as much as possible. All teachers should also familiarise themselves with this information to ensure that health and safety is ensured as much as possible.

- Supervise pupils' use at all times.
- Preview all sites before use or only use sites accessed from managed 'safe' environments.
- Plan the curriculum context for Internet use to match pupils' ability, using child-friendly search engines where more open Internet searching is required.
- Be vigilant when conducting 'raw' image search with pupils e.g. Google image search.
- Inform pupils that Internet use is monitored.
- Inform staff and pupils that they must report any failure of the filtering systems directly to the class teacher who will in turn report it to the E-Safety Leader or Headteacher.
- Require pupils (and their parent(s)/carer(s) from Key Stage 1 and 2, to individually read and sign the Pupil Charter which is fully explanatory and used as part of the teaching curriculum.
- All staff to sign a copy of the E-Safety policy at the time of commencing employment, with a copy kept on their personnel file.
- Any material which is inappropriate should be passed on to the E-Safety Leader.
- Any matters pertaining to Safeguarding should be referred to the Designated Safeguarding Leader.
- Immediately refer any material you suspect is illegal to the appropriate authorities – Police and the Local Authority. (Please see Appendices notifying parents if a child/group of children are using or have access to an inappropriate website).

### **Radicalisation**

Radicalisation is a process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals. It is something the school and its staff need to be aware of, as with any child protection issue. It should also be treated as such. In the case of a child being suspected as either becoming radicalised or is at risk of becoming so, the member of staff should inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead in the school as a child protection issue.

Please refer to 'The Prevent Duty' a document produced by the Department of Education, June 2015. It provides schools with a more comprehensive overview of the government's advice on radicalisation.