



Parent Volunteer Session

3rd October 2024

Thank you!

- ▶ St Mary's Catholic Academy believes that parents' involvement in their children's education is vital – this is why we encourage parent partnerships in many ways, including accompanying children on educational trips and visits.
- ▶ As a parent helper, or volunteer, you have a valuable role in supporting us to fulfil our aims and without your support – we would not be able to offer the enrichments that we do.

Parent/Volunteer helper duties

As a parent helper on an educational trip or visit, your main duties are to:

- ▶ • Ensure the safety and security of pupils.
- ▶ • Engage with pupils to enhance their learning experience.
- ▶ • Help all pupils participate fully and independently in all activities.

- ▶ In carrying out your duties, you must ensure that you comply with this protocol at all times and are aware of your responsibilities with regards to representing the school.
- ▶ We will attach an agreement slip to this document. We ask that you sign and return this to school to confirm that you have read, and agree to, the conditions outlined in this protocol.

Responsibilities of the school

The school agrees to:

- ▶ • Explain your tasks carefully and ensure you are clear about how we would like you to engage with pupils.
- ▶ • Ensure that the pupils you work with behave and work well.
- ▶ • Treat you with respect and care.
- ▶ • Share relevant information about the pupils you are working with.
- ▶ • Let you know the overall agenda for the day, and to inform you if this changes.
- ▶ • Treat anything you tell us with confidentiality. We will never ask you to deal with difficult or challenging behaviour, or to carry out a task that you feel uncomfortable with.
- ▶

Expectations of parents/volunteers

As a parent/volunteer accompanying school visits or trips, you are expected to:

- ▶ Do your best to ensure the health and safety of everyone in your assigned group.
- ▶ Follow the instructions of the group leader and school staff, and provide support with control and discipline, ensuring the pupils in your group follow all instructions.
- ▶ Dress appropriately for the trip or visit.
- ▶ Model acceptable behaviours and uphold the positive image of the school whilst out in public.
- ▶ Work cooperatively and professionally with staff.
- ▶ To inform the school if you are unable to attend a trip or visit by telephoning the school office on 01782 234820 as soon as possible.

You must not:

- ▶ Smoke, vape or consume alcohol at any point during the trip or visit.
- ▶ Use a personal device to take photographs of any pupils, or share information about the school trip or visit, e.g. on social media or via messaging apps.
- ▶ Share any information you have seen or heard with friends, family or another child's parent.

Safeguarding

- ▶ We do require to obtain a DBS check for all volunteers in school and on visits. In addition to this a risk assessment will be carried out by the school with regards to the volunteer's suitability to volunteer. The principal has the authority to refuse the help of parent helpers if they believe that it would not be in the best interest of pupils.
- ▶ If, when accompanying pupils on a trip, a pupil tells you something that causes you concern, you must report this to the group leader as soon as possible in an appropriate setting, to ensure others cannot overhear.
- ▶ We must follow careful guidelines with regards to physical contact with pupils. We ask that you do not initiate contact with pupils and we strongly discourage over-familiarity, even if you know the pupil already. Please do not lift, carry or move a pupil in any way.
- ▶ You can find a copy of our Safeguarding Policy on our school website, should you wish to find out more about safeguarding provision in our school.

Types of abuse

- ▶ There are four main types of abuse.

▶ Physical abuse

- ▶ This is when someone hurts a child on purpose and with the intent to cause harm. This can include hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, drowning, or suffocating. If it causes them physical harm, such as cuts, bruises, broken bones or other injuries, it is physical abuse.
- ▶ Anyone can hurt a child - a relative, friend or stranger. It can also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.
- ▶ **Signs of physical abuse**
 - Children with frequent injuries
 - Children with unexplained or unusual fractures or broken bones
 - Children with unexplained:
 - bruises or cuts
 - burns or scalds
 - bite marks
- ▶ Children may be more at risk if their parents have problems with drugs, alcohol and mental health or if they live in a home where domestic abuse happens. Babies and disabled children also have a higher risk of suffering physical abuse.

Emotional abuse

- ▶ Emotional abuse is when a child's feelings and emotions are manipulated or shamed on purpose. This can take different forms, for example:
 - when a child is unfairly blamed for everything
 - told they are stupid, worthless or ugly
 - ignored or never shown any emotion in interactions
- ▶ Emotional abuse is the severe and persistent ill treatment of a child. It can have long-lasting and devastating effects on a child's emotional health and development.
- ▶ **Signs of emotional abuse**
 - The child is excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious about doing something wrong
 - Parents or carers who withdraw their attention from their child, giving the child the 'cold shoulder'
 - Parents or carers blaming their problems on their child
 - Parents or carers who humiliate their child, for example, by name-calling or making negative comparisons.
- ▶ Emotional abuse may be the only form of abuse suffered by a child, or it might be part of a wider pattern of abuse.

Sexual abuse and exploitation

- ▶ Sexual abuse is any sexual activity with a child, or inducing a child to act in sexually inappropriate ways.
- ▶ Many children and young people do not recognise themselves as victims. A child may not understand what is happening and may not even understand that it is wrong.
- ▶ The sexual abuse of children is more than just physical sexual contact. It includes:
 - sexual touching, masturbation, kissing, rubbing - clothed or unclothed
 - all penetrative sex
 - intentionally engaging in sexual activity in front of a child
 - making, showing, or distributing indecent images of children.
 - grooming children for future abuse - in person or online
- ▶ **Signs of sexual abuse**
 - displaying knowledge or interest in sexual acts inappropriate to their age
 - using sexual language or have sexual knowledge that you wouldn't expect them to have
 - asking others to behave sexually or play sexual games
 - exhibiting physical sexual health problems, including soreness in the genital and anal areas, sexually transmitted infections or underage pregnancy

Neglect

- ▶ Neglect is where a child is not looked after. It is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic and essential needs.
- ▶ This can include:
 - not providing adequate food, water, clothing, and shelter
 - leaving a child alone in dangerous situations, or to watch after themselves when they are very young
 - failure to provide medical care
 - failure to meet the child's emotional needs
- ▶ **Warning signs of neglect**
 - living in a home that is indisputably dirty or unsafe
 - persistent hunger and signs of malnutrition
 - lack of hygiene - dirty clothes and hair that may lead to lice or nits
 - lack of adequate clothing for the time of year - such as not having a winter coat
 - living in dangerous conditions, i.e. around drugs, alcohol or violence
 - often acting angry, aggressive or self-harming
 - failing to receive basic health care
 - parents who fail to seek medical treatment when their children are ill or injured
- ▶ If a child does not have a safe and stable home, this is neglect.

Online abuse

- ▶ Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the internet. It can happen across any device that's connected to the web.
- ▶ This can include:
 - child sexual exploitation and abuse
 - terrorist use of the internet
 - hate crime and hate speech
 - harassment, cyberbullying and online abuse
- ▶ **Warning signs of neglect**
- ▶ A child or young person experiencing abuse online might:
 - ▶ spend a lot more or a lot less time than usual online, texting, gaming or using social media
 - ▶ seem distant, upset or angry after using the internet or texting
 - ▶ be secretive about who they're talking to and what they're doing online or on their mobile phone
 - ▶ have lots of new phone numbers, texts or email addresses on their mobile phone, laptop or tablet

Confidentiality

- ▶ We ask all parent helpers to work to a policy of confidentiality. You may see pupils struggling with tasks, getting upset or misbehaving, or hear information concerning a pupil whilst you are with us.
- ▶ It's important that you do not share anything specific about pupils with friends, family or a pupil's parent, even if you know them.
- ▶ If you are approached by a parent, you should refer them to the class teacher, who is responsible for informing parents of any concerns about a pupil. If you have any queries or problems regarding the trip or visit, please direct these in the first instance to the group leader.

IF YOU ARE EVER CONCERNED OR WORRIED BY SOMETHING THAT A CHILD HAS SAID TO YOU OR YOU HAVE SEEN, PLEASE REPORT TO A MEMBER OF STAFF.