



St. Mary's Catholic First School

Contextual Safeguarding

Safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside school and/or can occur between children outside the school. All staff consider the context within such incidents and/or behaviours occur. This is known as **contextual safeguarding**, which simply means assessments of children should consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. Regular updates are also shared about these in our weekly Newsletter to parents.

Geographical factors	St. Mary's Catholic First School Response
We have a close proximity to busy roads, the railway line and the river in Hexham.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All classes, during the academic year, receive assemblies regarding: road, cycling, water safety and on the dangers of playing near the railway line. About being out in the dark - be bright, be seen. Staff take the children on local walks and teach them about all elements of keeping safe - road/river. Road Safety sessions where the children have practical opportunities to practise being safe are accessed from the local authority. Swimming lessons are delivered to KS2 children.
Social and economic factors	St. Mary's Catholic First School Response
Pupils visit local play parks, sometimes with older siblings or children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We teach pupils about personal safety and making the right decisions to keep themselves safe regarding their behaviour beyond school.
Peer group factors	St. Mary's Catholic First School Response
Pupils have older siblings or other family members who may be influential to younger family members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We teach pupils about personal safety and making the right decisions to keep themselves safe regarding their behaviour beyond school. Our curriculum teaches children about the issue of 'peer pressure'. Children engage in different scenarios and are given choices to make through role play. Children are taught to be confident and assertive through our PSHCE curriculum. We also engage in 'anti-bullying' activities during Anti-Bullying Week and we high profile this with our school community. We encourage any child feeling pressured to 'talk it out' with an adult or share via our 'Talk boxes'
Easy access to drugs in the local community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver age-appropriate drug education through PSHE and RSHE. Teach emotional regulation, peer pressure resistance, and decision-making. Include information on the risks of vaping, alcohol, and prescription misuse in an age-appropriate manner.
Home factors	St. Mary's Catholic First School Response
Lots of our pupils are connected to the internet at home and regularly use gaming devices to engage in online games with their friends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through our Computing Curriculum, pupils are taught about online safety. Every child has signed our 'Acceptable Use' contract. Parents sign an 'Acceptable Use' contract too. We mark Safer Internet Day annually (February) & Ant-Bullying Day (May). We use SENSO software to track all activity on school devices. Parents are communicated through our regular Newsletters outlining any new developments in E-Safety. DSLs keep up-to-date with CEOP developments; parents are able to contact school should they have any concerns.
Parental Substance Misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Help assessment to coordinate support. Pastoral support for all children (3 Houses), including regular check-ins and safe spaces. Referral to external services

Domestic Abuse

Mental Health Issues in the Household

- Staff training to recognise signs of substance misuse and its impact.
- Operation Encompass: St. Mary's school is signed up to receive police notifications of domestic incidents
- Provide emotional regulation tools and interventions for pupils
- Links to domestic abuse services regularly shared with families
- RSHE curriculum: Teaches about healthy relationships and safety.
- Early Help referral to access family mental health support
- Staff awareness training on mental health and its impact on children
- Flexible support for the child (e.g. Wellbeing Club/ELSA/Thrive).