Safeguarding Policy

St Mary of Charity Primary School PTFA (Parent, Teacher and Friends Association)

1. Policy Statement

St Mary of Charity Primary School PTFA is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all volunteers, members, and visitors to share this commitment.

The PTFA recognises that children have a fundamental right to be protected from harm and that their welfare is paramount. While the PTFA does not have direct responsibility for the day-to-day care of children, it acknowledges its duty to act appropriately where safeguarding concerns arise during PTFA-organised activities or events.

This policy applies to all PTFA members, and anyone working on behalf of the PTFA.

2. Relationship with St Mary of Charity Primary School

The PTFA works in close partnership with St Mary of Charity Primary School, Faversham and adopts the school's safeguarding and child protection procedures.

All safeguarding concerns relating to children connected with PTFA activities will be referred immediately to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or, in their absence, the Deputy DSL, in line with the school's safeguarding policy.

This policy should be read alongside:

- St Mary of Charity Primary School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (statutory guidance)

3. Designated Safeguarding Lead

The PTFA does not appoint its own Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Safeguarding matters are referred directly to the school.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):

Headteacher or appointed DSL at St Mary's of Charity Primary School

4. Roles and Responsibilities

The PTFA Committee will:

- Ensure this safeguarding policy is reviewed annually
- Promote a culture of safeguarding awareness
- Ensure safeguarding is considered in the planning of all PTFA activities and events
- Ensure volunteers are aware of appropriate conduct around children

All PTFA members and volunteers must:

- Act in the best interests of children at all times
- Maintain appropriate boundaries and professional behaviour
- Report any safeguarding concerns immediately

5. Safer Working Practice

At PTFA events:

- Children remain the responsibility of their parents or carers at all times unless explicitly stated otherwise
- Volunteers should avoid being alone with a child
- Physical contact with children should be avoided unless necessary for safety reasons
- Appropriate supervision arrangements will be maintained

PTFA members and volunteers must not:

- Promise confidentiality to a child
- Investigate safeguarding concerns themselves
- Take photographs of children without appropriate consent

6. Reporting Safeguarding Concerns

A safeguarding concern may arise if a child:

- Discloses abuse or neglect
- Appears at risk of harm
- Displays concerning behaviour
- Raises concerns about another child or adult

If a concern arises, the PTFA member or volunteer must:

1. Listen calmly and reassure the child
2. Avoid asking leading questions
3. Make a factual record as soon as possible
4. Report the concern immediately to the school's DSL

If a concern arises outside school hours and a child is at immediate risk, emergency services or local children's services should be contacted.

7. Allegations Against Adults

Any allegation or concern regarding the behaviour of:

- A PTFA member
- Volunteer
- Parent or adult involved in a PTFA activity

must be reported immediately to the school's DSL or Headteacher.

The PTFA will not investigate allegations.

9. Online Safety and Communications

PTFA communications involving children will:

- Use approved PTFA or school communication channels
- Avoid direct messaging children
- Follow the school's guidance on online safety

Images of children will only be used with parental consent and in line with school policy.

10. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by the PTFA Committee or sooner if:

- Safeguarding legislation or guidance changes
- School safeguarding arrangements change
- An incident highlights the need for review